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SUMMER NUMBER

JUL 3 1942

COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Friday
JUNE 5, 1942

ONE SHILLING & SIXPENCE



THE BRACKEN IS YOUNG: ASHDOWN FOREST

Will F. Taylor

PERSONAL

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCI. No. 2368.

JUNE 5, 1942

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

By Direction of Captain J. W. W. Bridges

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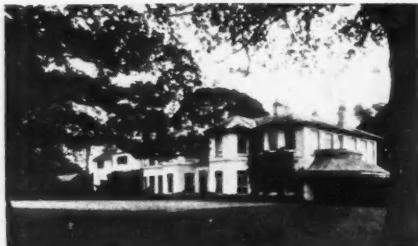
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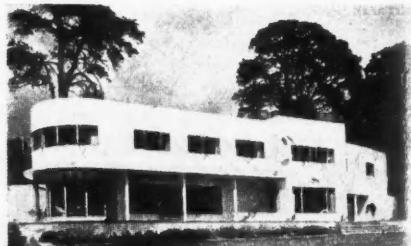
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5 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms, 2 reception rooms, compact domestic offices.

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Built and equipped regardless of cost and in exquisite taste.

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In all about
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Ideal Property for the London Business Man.
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Delightful gardens with tennis and other lawns, flower gardens, orchard, kitchen garden, etc.

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Main electricity and water. Central heating.

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8 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge hall and 3 reception rooms. Main electricity, gas and water. Central heating.

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ESTABLISHED 1875.

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Near the Hampshire border.

FOR SALE, OR TO LET FURNISHED, an attractive Farmhouse-style Residence. 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Companies' water, gas and electricity. Garage for 2 cars. 2 cottages. Tennis court. Kitchen garden. Paddocks. Beautiful grounds and trees. Stream with chain of ponds and miniature waterfall.

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(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1

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PRIVATE GATE TO SUNNINGDALE GOLF LINKS

MODERN HOUSE IN 2 ACRES SHADY GROUNDS. 8 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, servants' sitting room. Main services. Part central heating.

LONG LEASE FOR SALE AT MODERATE PRICE to allow for necessary expenditure in redecorating, etc.

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24 MILES SOUTH

Few minutes electric service.

IN OLD VILLAGE.

GEORGIAN HOUSE. 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Main services. Garage, etc.

OVER 2 ACRES. £4,000

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THIS CHARMING RESIDENTIAL ESTATE bounded on three sides by beautiful Commons and comprising residence with lounge hall, billiard room, 12 bed, 2 baths. Electric light, central heating, ample water, modern drainage. Garages, stabling, farmery, bailiff's house, 4 cottages. In all about **97 ACRES. FOR SALE FREEHOLD**. Particulars from the agents, GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (3575)

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New Galloway Station 4 miles. Dalry 3 miles. Newton Stewart 19 miles. Castle Douglas 15 miles. Dumfries 24 miles

THE VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE OF KENMURE

Including: 11 Farms, Cottages. Golf Course, Woodlands and

OVERTON HOUSE

(A CHARMING MODERN RESIDENCE
OF 16 ROOMS)

Beautifully situated with magnificent views over Loch Ken and to the surrounding hills.

THE WHOLE EXTENDING

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Also rented Shooting over adjoining 4,000 acres additional. (Grouse, Black Game, Duck and Low Ground Shooting.)

COTSWOLDS

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FOR SALE OR TO LET FURNISHED (with option to purchase if desired). Near a small old market town, a charming Cotswold Residence, modernised at considerable expense. Good bus services to London, Oxford and Cheltenham, and connecting with trains at Oxford for London.



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6 ACRES

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PRICE ASKED £7,500

AN OPPORTUNITY SELDOM OCCURRING.

BIBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

FOR SALE

WITH POSSESSION ABOUT END AUGUST.

DELIGHTFUL MODERNISED COTTAGE-RESIDENCE.

2 reception, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, loggia. Main electric and water pump.

Independent hot water.

Partial central heating.

Telephone.

ATTRACTIVE SMALL
GARDEN.

PRICE £2,750 (OPEN OFFERS).

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DORSET

Commanding extensive views over the Stour Valley. About ½ mile from an interesting old Market Town.

**TO BE LET UNFURNISHED
THIS CHARMING
RESIDENCE**

OF A SPECIAL AND ATTRACTIVE CHARACTER, HAVING SOUTH ASPECT AND PROTECTED BY HIGH GROUND ON THE NORTH AND EAST SIDES.

7 principal bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, attic bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, cloak room, kitchen and ample domestic offices.



For further particulars apply FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

Aga cooker. Ideal stove. Central heating. Company's electricity and water.

Modern bungalow. Garage. Stabling. Greenhouse. Cow stalls.

Delightful ornamental grounds with good kitchen garden, woodland and pasture land, the whole extending to an area of about

11 ACRES

RENT £350 PER ANNUM

DORSET

Wareham 2 miles. Dorchester 14 miles. Bournemouth 15 miles. 5 miles from the Coast.

THE EXCELLENT FREEHOLD AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE

COMPRISING THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE

WEST HOLME MANOR ESTATE, EAST STOKE, NEAR WAREHAM

and including TWO IMPORTANT DAIRY AND MIXED FARMS of 168 ACRES and 119 ACRES respectively, EQUIPPED WITH GOOD HOUSES AND FARM BUILDINGS. AN EXCELLENT SMALLHOLDING OF ABOUT 34 ACRES.

WOODLANDS, MEADOW LAND, WITHE AND SPEAR BEDS. 2 OTHER SMALLHOLDINGS. 2 OLD-WORLD COTTAGES. THE WHOLE EXTENDING TO AN AREA OF ABOUT

403 ACRES

VACANT POSSESSION OF CERTAIN LANDS IN HAND WILL BE GIVEN ON COMPLETION.

To be SOLD by AUCTION in 11 LOTS at THE RED LION HOTEL, WAREHAM, on TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1942, at 2.30 p.m. (unless previously sold privately).

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2½ miles from Oswestry on Main Line of G.W. Railway.

HUNTING WITH 2 PACKS. SALMON AND TROUT FISHING AVAILABLE.

VALUABLE SMALL RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

WITH PART GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

Containing 8 principal bedrooms, servants' bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (one with shower), 3 reception rooms, hall, gun room, servants' hall, kitchen and offices.

MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER, STABLING, GARAGE FOR 5 CARS, DAIRY.

2 TENNIS COURTS, GOOD GARDEN, WOODLAND, HEATED VINERY, PEACH HOUSE.

HOME FARM WITH EXCELLENT BLACK AND WHITE FARMHOUSE, COW HOUSES FOR 22 COWS, BULL SHED, CALVING BOX, GOOD PIG STYES. 6-BAY DUTCH BARN, CART STABLE FOR THREE, 3 COTTAGES, NUMBER OF OTHER USEFUL OUTBUILDINGS.

THE WHOLE EXTENDS TO AN AREA OF ABOUT

230 ACRES

ALL THE FIELDS ARE WATERED BY STREAMS OR AUTOMATIC TANKS.

For particulars apply FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

DORSET

In an excellent residential neighbourhood, with private entrance to a popular 18-hole Golf Course, and enjoying fine panoramic views over the links; only 7 miles from Bournemouth.

TO BE SOLD

THIS CHOICE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, WITH COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE IN PERFECT CONDITION, AND FITTED WITH ALL UP-TO-DATE CONVENiences



6 principal bedrooms, 5 maids' rooms, dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, housekeeper's bedroom, oak-panelled entrance hall, studio or workshop, flower room, servants' hall, kitchen and complete domestic offices. Company's electric light, main water and drainage, central heating. Vita glass windows in all sitting rooms. 3 heated garages, excellent cottage and chauffeur's rooms; heated range of greenhouses, fruit room, potting shed.

THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS



are of unusual charm and character and are a special feature of the property. They are tastefully designed with Alpine rockery, lily garden (designed and laid out by R. Wallace & Co., Tunbridge Wells) herbaceous borders, beautiful shady walks, shrubberies, and rhododendron avenue, rose garden; natural miniature lake and boathouse; artistic summer house; full-sized croquet lawn, bordered by clipped yew hedges; walled kitchen garden, etc.; the whole extending to an area of just over

13 ACRES

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ESTATE

*Phone: Kens. 1490.
Grams: "Estate,
Harrods, London."

HAMPSHIRE FRONTEAGE TO NEW FOREST c.4
Superb views and overlooking 2 acres of water, lying 100 ft. below the house, including a well-stocked trout stream of about 400 yards.



UNIQUE COUNTRY HOUSE

PLANNED ON LABOUR-SAVING LINES.

Oak-panelled hall, 3 good reception, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Complete offices, including servants' sitting room. Large separate room suitable for studio or billiards. Complete central heating. Electric light and unlimited water supply by owner's water power, so that water and electricity costs are negligible. 20 Aviaries covering about 1,000 square yards. Garage for two cars. Stabling for 3. Entrance lodge. Large garage and workshop, with rough little bedrooms over them.

FASCINATING GROUNDS

Inexpensive to keep up, including Tennis Court, small Kitchen Garden, rich park-like pastureland, in all

ABOUT 20 ACRES. ONLY £6,500 FREEHOLD
ADDITIONAL LAND CAN BE HAD.

HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1. (Tele.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 806.)

THE BEST BARGAIN IN DORSET c.2

1 mile two villages, 5 miles Educational Town and main line station.



COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE OF THE GEORGIAN TYPE

In a superb setting, facing due South, "with a glorious panoramic view over three counties. 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maids' sitting room. Fitted basins in all bedrooms. Central heating throughout. Garage. Stabling. Fine outbuildings. Cottage for gardener.

WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS, SHADY LAWNS, PROLIFIC KITCHEN GARDEN, AN OAK WOOD AND 4 PASTURE FIELDS.

IN ALL ABOUT 56 ACRES

FREEHOLD £5,950 (or near Offer)

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SURREY HILLS c.4

Under 20 miles from London. Enviable situation. 40 minutes Town.



THIS ENCHANTING PROPERTY

THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE EXPENDITURE. Entrance hall, 3 reception, sun loggia, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, complete offices. Central heating. Company's electric light and power. Main gas and water, etc. 2 garages.

DELIGHTFUL AND INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS WITH TENNIS AND OTHER LAWNS, WELL-STOCKED KITCHEN GARDEN, RHODODENDRONS, SOFT FRUIT, ETC., IN ALL

ABOUT 1 ACRE. IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

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HARRODS
KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE
62/64, BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1

OFFICES

West Byfleet,
and Haslemere
Offices.

OXON & NORTHANTS BORDERS c.2

In lovely country, near village and 6 miles from good town.



A LOVELY TUDOR STONE-BUILT MANOR HOUSE

CAREFULLY MODERNISED BUT RETAINING ITS QUIET DIGNITY AND CHARM.

Lounge hall, 33 ft. by 18 ft., 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, model offices. Central heating. Electric light. Fitted basins in bedrooms. Garage. Hunter stables. Fine old Tithe barn. 2 Cottages, each with bath and an older cottage.

SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE GARDENS AND A FIELD OF 12 ACRES, IN ALL

ABOUT 14 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1. (Tele.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 809.)

AMID PEACE & TRANQUILLITY. LOVELY DEVON c.3

About 700 ft. above sea level, in one of the choicest parts of the County, convenient to a village, about 7 miles from Tiverton.



CHARMING CONVERTED FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE
WITH OAK BEAMS AND PANELLING.

Lounge, 2 other reception, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, also annexe with sitting room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom. Garage. Various useful outbuildings.

ATTRACTIVE PLEASURE GROUNDS WITH LARGE SWIMMING POOL. ALSO PASTURELAND, ORCHARD, STREAM, THE AREA EXTENDING

TO ABOUT 28 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT A REASONABLE FIGURE. HARRODS LTD., 62/64, Brompton Road, S.W.1. (Tele.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 807.)

ON THE HANTS & SURREY BORDERS c.3
Convenient to a picturesque hamlet, on high ground, amidst some of the most charming scenery in the Home Counties, and about 45 miles from London.



CHARMING FREEHOLD RESIDENCE

Hall, 3 reception, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Modern drainage. Company's electric light, and other conveniences. COTTAGE. GARAGE.

DELIGHTFUL GARDENS WITH TENNIS COURT, FLOWER BEDS, VEGETABLE GARDEN, ORCHARD, ALSO MEADOWLAND, IN ALL ABOUT

10½ ACRES

VERY MODERATE PRICE FREEHOLD FOR QUICK SALE

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ALL-PURPOSE FERTILIZER

Some fertilizers are best dug into the land in early spring. Others give excellent results in the seed-bed, and a few have their chief use as "top-dressings" during the growing season. I.C.I. Garden Fertilizer is a first-class food for every garden crop, whether used in spring, summer or early autumn. It is a granular fertilizer, easy to apply either dry or dissolved in water and very economical in use. One matchboxful supplies enough plant food for a 9-10 ft. row of vegetables.

Use I.C.I. GARDEN FERTILIZER

PLANT PROTECTION LTD YALDING KENT

INCREASE THE YIELDS
OF ALL YOUR FIELDS



More Lime means More Food

PRICE CONCESSION FOR SUMMER DELIVERIES

The Government contribution has been raised from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the farmers' costs for lime delivered between May 18th and August 31st. If you take delivery *now* you will pay only half what you will have to pay in the autumn. In other words, you will be getting your lime at quarter cost.

★ Buy Locally

Take your lime in the form in which you can get it locally. This will save transport and is often cheaper.

★ Store in the fields

Take your lime now and heap it in the fields for which it is intended. Chalk and ground limestone can be stored unprotected. Quicklime must be covered with soil.

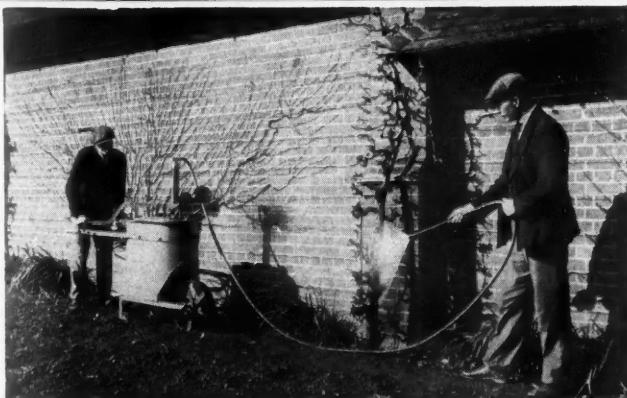
★ Take the form of Lime you can get

Farmers who have been in the habit of using quicklime should realise that most other forms of lime act as well, or nearly as well, when in the soil. Ground limestone and other forms of slaked lime are often available locally. Take what you can get.

★ Improving grassland

Much liming of grassland can be done in the summer months. Chalk and ground limestone are quite harmless to stock. If quicklime is used, however, stock should be kept off the field on which it has been spread until there has been a good shower of rain.

HAVE YOUR SOILS TESTED FREE: APPLY TO YOUR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ORGANISER. HE WILL TELL YOU HOW MUCH LIME YOU NEED AND WHAT KIND TO USE ON YOUR FARM.



Four Oaks Sprayers

Many times in many years, we have designed spraying machines to fulfil a particular purpose. The machine pictured has a shaped container with wheel fitted exactly where and how it should be, for handy handling. Capacity 18 gallons. Double action pump for easy forceful spraying. Often used with an extension lance to spray high fruit trees; and for spraying lime wash, etc.

Complete with varying nozzles, "Ely" Machine as illustrated, price £24 0 6, plus 10%, carriage paid

Though it is war time we are trying to do the very best we can to give reasonable deliveries

Sprayers of all kinds made at Four Oaks, including charlock and potato sprayers. Please write for List.

FOUR OAKS SPRAYING MACHINE CO., FOUR OAKS, BIRMINGHAM

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Tyres may be rationed but Tyre SERVICE is not

YOUR USUAL DEALER CAN HELP YOU TO GET THE
MOST FROM YOUR PRESENT TYRES

Ask him about

- * Correct Tyre Inflation
- * Brake Adjustment
- * Wheel Alignment
- * Changing round of Tyres

YOUR DEALER WILL BE BACK AGAIN IN
NORMAL TYRE BUSINESS ONE DAY—KEEP IN
TOUCH WITH HIM

DUNLOP

2H/129

WASTE RUBBER—URGENTLY NEEDED

for vital war supplies

Your worn-out Rubber Boots, old Wringer Rollers, Rubber Mats, Hot-Water Bottles, and leaky Garden Hose, etc., can be converted into tyres for lorries and 'planes—into airmen's rubber boats, self-sealing petrol tanks—into gas-masks—cables for warships—life-saving jackets, etc.

Put out all you can find for collection by your Local Authority. Take worn-out tyres to your Garage for consignment to a Government Depot, if unable to do this put them with your other rubber salvage for Local Authority to collect. The Nation Needs Your Rubber.



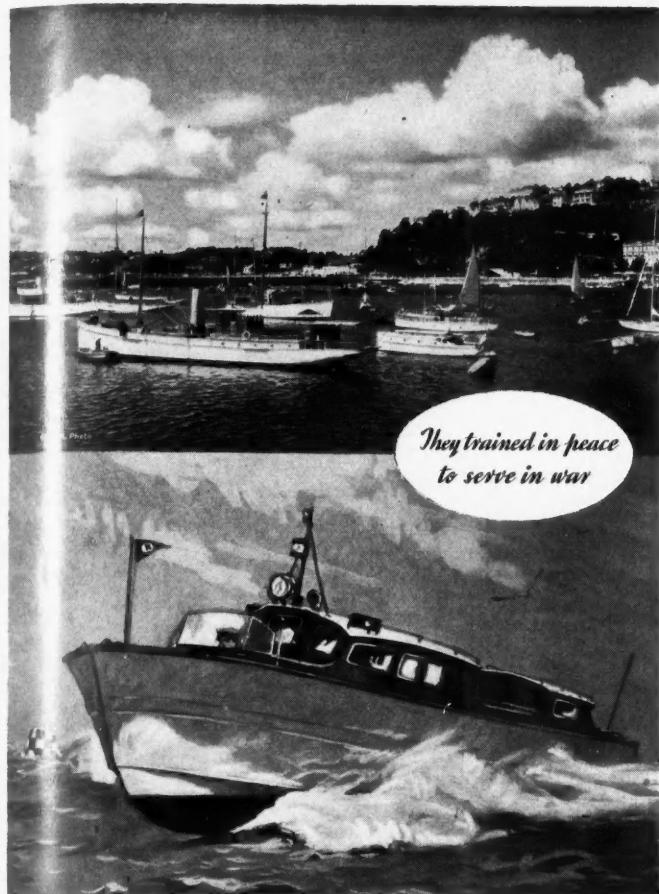
WORTH WAITING FOR

ONE day—and it may not be so far distant—peace will return and with it the good times awheel. That will be the time to become the proud owner of a new Sunbeam Bicycle with its 50 years' reputation for supreme quality. You have only to examine and ride a Sunbeam to realise that the little extra a Sunbeam costs is justified 10 times over by its exclusive features and superb finish. For the present supplies are short, but a Sunbeam is worth waiting for because Sunbeam quality remains jealously guarded to ensure that when peace returns you will be able to say "I chose a Sunbeam, and I'm proud of it."

SUNBEAM



THE BEST BICYCLE THAT MONEY CAN BUY



Ranalah YACHT YARD Limited WOOTTON CREEK, ISLE OF WIGHT
"Builders of fine boats"



MORNING COMES FAITHFULLY every twenty-four hours and with it the newspaper of the day, product of a hundred skilled and dependable collaborators. How different our day if they had failed! And if a great concourse of essential transport vehicles move punctually on their errands in these vital days of war, it is because our workers, too, have done their job—of making dependable efficient plugs—with the same skill, the same fidelity.

AC-SPHINX
SPARKING PLUGS

WHEREVER MAN DOES
WORK, WHEREVER MIGHTY
FURTHER THE COURSE
OR PEACE, STEEL
FOUND AT SOME

MAN'S
MACHINES
OF WAR
TUBES WILL BE
VITAL POINT



TUBE INVESTMENTS LTD. • STEEL TUBES ADVISORY CENTRE • BIRMINGHAM



The English Home

HARRODS vast Furniture Galleries are still well stocked with fine examples of English Furniture—faithful reproductions of old-world styles together with the best examples of modern design.

Rising costs and shortage of material make the purchase of furniture of pre-war quality and beauty a truly wise investment.

HARRODS GALLERIES

HARRODS LTD

LONDON SW1

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCI. No. 2368

JUNE 5, 1942



Harlip

LADY MARGARET FORTESCUE

Lady Margaret Fortescue, who is the elder daughter of Earl and Countess Fortescue, is working in a convalescent home in Leicestershire

COUNTRY LIFE

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W.C.2.

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Telephone: Temple Bar 7351.

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The Editor reminds correspondents that communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. MSS. will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

Postal rates on this issue: Inland 2d. Canada 1½d. Elsewhere abroad 2d.

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in COUNTRY LIFE should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.

THE AGRICULTURAL FUTURE

SPECULATION on the immediate plans for agriculture, and for the Milk Marketing Board in particular, was largely relieved by Mr. Hudson's speech in Wiltshire last week. He indicated a 1942 ploughing programme, owing to changes in Allied strategy, on the scale of another half-million acres, and that the outcome of the negotiations with the Ministry of Food is that the Board is in future to buy all milk. Further comment on this important change must be reserved till later, but, in view of the additional strain imposed on the dairy industry by this further extension of arable production, it is well that Mr. Hudson should have made a clear statement at the Royal Society of Arts of his own long view of milk production. He believes that the milk industry after the war will remain the sheet anchor of farming but must never be allowed to return to its pre-war condition. "As I see it," he said, "the future lies in what I may call arable dairying." Farmers will be encouraged to learn that Mr. Hudson is putting precept into practice by himself becoming an arable dairy farmer in Wiltshire. So it was both as farmer and Minister that he listened to a paper on the future of the industry by Professor H. D. Kay, who foresaw not only healthier animals giving more milk in much improved surroundings, but the enforcement of standards of competence among those who take up dairy farming. Professor Kay did not hesitate to say that the future of the dairy farm is not only the future of national nutrition but that of British farming. He suggested that it required a unifying and consolidating Act of Parliament to cover the whole milk and dairying industry and to provide for just and uniform administration. A welcome development is the discovery by the Labour Party Conference last week of their profound and serious interest in agriculture. When an interim report on the Party's policy was issued some time ago the subject of agriculture and its future was conspicuous chiefly by its absence. Last week the Conference called not only for full use to be made of the land but for a planned system of production. The general proposals of the Party with regard to nationalisation were set out by Lord Addison in last week's COUNTRY LIFE, and those put forward at the Conference followed similar lines. The discussion had, however, one disquieting feature: the attitude taken towards the regulation recently adopted in order to enable children between 12 and 14 to spend up to 10 days of elementary school attendance in helping with

seasonal farm work. This regulation Mr. Gooch described as "class legislation." In a sense it certainly is; for children in other schools are already free to have their school-work rearranged so that they may give assistance when it is most needed. They are, as a matter of fact, doing so in large numbers. As for the Labour Party's apparent fear of a reversion to systematic child labour in field and factory, it is difficult to take it seriously. It would have been more sensible, surely, to lay stress on the advantage to the rural child of a first-hand acquaintance with cattle, crops, and the work of the farm.

QUEEN MARY

It is an honour, as well as a coincidence, that the number of COUNTRY LIFE in which we would wish to pay our cordial respects to Queen Mary on her seventy-fifth birthday should contain a communication from Her Majesty herself through her Lady-in-Waiting. This is a reply to a letter from Mr. J. Coutts Duffus, Younger of Claverhouse, about a painting by Victoria, Princess Royal, which he has recently acquired, asking whether any of our readers know of other examples. No one, of course, is so well qualified as Queen Mary to answer this, and innumerable other questions about the arts in relation to the Royal Family—a vast subject on which every expert who has studied it has invariably testified to Queen Mary's remarkable knowledge. Nor has her zest and acumen been confined to the Royal palaces. A queen has extraordinary opportunities, if so minded, for becoming acquainted with works of art. But no other Queen of Great Britain has evinced the indefatigable enthusiasm and astonishing memory and expertise of Queen Mary for everything connected with Britain's artistic history. On this occasion we may be permitted to exclaim "Long may she reign" over this particular realm which is peculiarly her own.

EVACUATED

THE house rings hollow as an empty shell,
Gone are the children with their joyous din,
No youthful voice uprises, only the thin
High squeak of wood and from the staircase well
A troubled echo like a sad old bell;
Loneliness like a ghost moves out and in . . .
Almost one sees the dusky spider spin
His doleful web, as in a fairy spell.

*The Princess in the fairy tale sleeps on . . .
But never sleep-enslaved those children are.
Oh, to a distant country they have gone
To have bright sojourn 'neath a vigorous star;
Only the house sleeps, waiting, still and wan,
The returning of the children from afar.*

AGNES GROZIER HERBERTSON.

UNESSENTIAL HORSES

THE Minister of Agriculture's appeal to owners of horses, it is evident from its tone, is made with regret. That regret we more than share in passing it on to our readers, with the caution that ministerial appeals of this nature, if not complied with, have a way of precluding something worse. The Minister asks all those who own horses or ponies to consider seriously whether it is still necessary to keep them. No rationed feeding-stuffs are supplied except for agricultural horses, pit ponies, town horses and a limited number of thoroughbreds and Hunt horses. But there are many horses in the country which are either too old for work or only ridden occasionally for enjoyment—some are old friends kept for sentimental reasons—which have been turned out to grass. The grass they eat in the summer and the hay they consume in the winter should from now on be kept for more essential animals. With the suspension of the basic petrol allowance it may well be that more horse traffic will be needed. Nevertheless, even allowing for that, there remain a large number of horses which are not essential or useful to the war effort and should be destroyed. It is impossible to say how many there are—the last figures are for 1934. In

comment, two points of importance must be made. Probably a large proportion of the horses and ponies involved are kept for teaching children to ride—still, surely, an essential purpose; and in some areas they are on the strength of mounted Home Guard units. Fuller guidance is also needed on animals kept for breeding, whose prospective is much greater than their immediate importance.

FARMING UNDER THE SWASTIKA

THE dismissal of Herr Walther Darré, who from its earliest days has inspired and controlled the land and production policy of the Nazi Party, may or may not imply a serious attempt to alter that policy. There seems to be some idea in this country that the Nazi land policy is one of nationalisation approaching the Communist administration. This, Mr. Henry Spiegel's study in *Land Tenure Policies* (Oxford, 18s. 6d.) shows that it definitely is not. The Nazis long ago bought the support of the great landowners by promising to respect the pre-war system of land tenure and property in land, and they have carried out their promise. The chief modifications which they have made, indeed, in their pursuit of "agricultural autocracy" have been in the nature of a reversion to feudalism rather than a broadening of the basis of ownership. Tenant farming has been systematically discouraged and the Government's financial support has enabled the large landowners—of whom Wilhelm Hohenzollern was the largest while he lived—to buy up small farms whenever opportunity has offered. The Nazi régime is more interested in "crop-factories" than in the improvement of peasant proprietors and farm workers. Meanwhile the small farmer has been bound hand and foot by a system of entail which ties him to his land. The background of this "entailed" slave-driving is a strange farago of nonsense linking up the development of human civilisation and that of the domestic animals. According to Darré the pig is the criterion of the Nordic race. Potatoes have been the mainstay of the "Ostic" peoples, which is why the peasants call an un-Nordic face a "potato-face."

FIELDS OF BEAUTY

THE scent of the beanfields is sweet in our land, and the meadows, still untouched by the mowers, are lovely to behold, especially when a June breeze plays upon them. "The grasses, like an anchored smoke, ride in the bending gale," wrote Francis Thompson, and it is recorded of Keats that he would sometimes leap upon a gate to watch the wind sweeping over the fields; on one occasion he exclaimed: "Ah, look! The tide! The tide!" But, though poets may be seers, most of humanity takes such beauty for granted most of the time, and only by suffering—whether from toothache or war—are we stabbed or jolted into perception. Now indeed we may look again. How pleasing to the eye are the wickedest weeds—buttercups, charlock, scarlet poppies—and why have we not before observed the flush of rust-red sorrel in the fields or the lemon blossoms which are now massed on the purple-sprouting broccoli overgrown in the gardens? In like wise, when rhubarb runs to flower it may be past its culinary best, but then only does it achieve its greatest beauty: four acres of rhubarb in flower is a sight worth observing. Soon, now, the clover fields will be in bloom—white, and pink, and deep crimson where trifolium has been sown: sweet is the scent of these fields and dear to the bees, for a single acre may yield 14 lb. of nectar a week. Purple lucerne and rose sainfoin (saint foin, the holy grass from which is said to have been made the hay that filled the cradle at Bethlehem) are also to be enjoyed before the mower comes. It has been reported that the ordinary meadows can boast less bouquet than of old—perhaps because the sweet-scented vernal grass whose delicious quality is recognised even in its scientific label, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, has found no place in modern leys. But the fragrance of the beans and the clovers, and the richly varied beauties of all the fields still unknown, are at least as good as they have ever been.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES...

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

THREE would seem to be a book—and, in many cases, several—on every conceivable subject in the world, but one that so far as I know has not been published yet is that dealing with the various country sayings concerning predictions of the weather. These verses and jingles vary from those which are used all over the British Isles in some form or another, to others which are purely local and employed only in one county. Among the commoner ones recognised from John o' Groat's to Land's End are the rhymes concerning St. Swithin's Day and the effect it has on the next 40 days' weather; the ash and the oak, and the order in which their leaves appear, which decides whether the coming summer will be a "splash" or a "soak"; "red in the morning the shepherd's warning, red at night the shepherd's delight"; the ring round the moon; and a whole variety of others.

In the West Country they have a very apt description of those watery-looking sunsets, which predict almost invariably a soaking rain for the morrow. "When I seed the owd sun go down last evening look-like a cake o' soap at the bottom of a bucket o' dirty water, I knowed there'd be no carrying the corn to-day," a Wessex farm labourer will say, and usually this particular type of sunset means so heavy a downpour that there is no corn-carting for several days.

A new one to me is a west Hampshire saying to the effect that a mist in March means a frost in May on the same day of the month, and it would be interesting to hear if this is a general belief throughout the country. West Hampshire is particularly concerned about late frosts as so much of the area lies in the Avon Valley, which is notorious for them, so that frost is a failure almost every other year, and the local man has every reason to dread drawing the curtains on a May morning for fear of seeing the fields white with hoar frost. This year we experienced a heavy mist on March 30 or 31, and before these Notes appear we shall know if this ominous prediction came true or not. An old and usually reliable saying which the April and May of 1942 have hit as high as a kite and exploded is that which runs: "If Jack Frost comes on mornings twain the next day surely will be rain."

NEITHER gardeners nor fishermen will have any difficulty in remembering the weather that persisted throughout April and the first part of May this year, and was most unsatisfactory for crops, orchards and angling. Trout rivers have never been so low and clear at this period of the spring in the memory of man, and the hatch of fly owing to midday heat has been extremely sparse and intermittent. The banks of the various streams were frequented during this period by steadily perambulating and bored anglers, walking rod in hand and looking for some fish that would rise twice; and they were rare.

On one of these particularly hopeless days I went to my beat, and on the mile of water there was apparently only one fish alive. As this out was well out of casting distance and I had no waders, I reconnoitred the remainder of the beat, watched two pairs of redshanks in endeavour to find their nests, visited a few snake traps, annoyed some Reed warblers by rattling the glasses on them, and, having killed a certain amount of time, came back to find my friend still rising steadily—or, to be more exact, nymphing. Every three minutes



A ROAD IN THE LOWLANDS: ON THE WAY TO LOCH TROOL AT BARGRENNAN, IN THE GALLOWAY HILLS, KIRCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

or so he would start off from a patch of weeds and travel over an area of some 20 yards by 10, rising, bulging, rolling over and giving a full view at times of his shapely 2-lb. figure.

He was feeding so consistently, apparently taking everything he saw, that he seemed worth an attack of rheumatism, and so at 11.30 I waded into extremely cold water and started operations. For the next hour and a half I cast incessantly during his periodical rushes, and not once did I feel sure I had covered him as his progress was so rapid and so extremely erratic.

I ate my lunch on the bank watching his movements, trying to arrive at his general plan of campaign and after the meal started casting again with the same result. From time to time I wandered off up stream partly to look for other fish and partly to restore circulation, but again and again I returned to the roaming trout whose idea was evidently to make the attack of rheumatism a severe one. At 5 p.m. in disgust I made my final cast, which was ignored as usual, and, my line having sunk, the fly disappeared downstream. I reeled in with the cast dragging through the weed patches and just as I had come to the end there was a suspicious splash almost between my legs which at first I thought must have been caused by my fly-box or some portion of my gear falling from my pocket to the water. Then came a sudden pluck at the rod top and I saw my line haring off downstream. Fifteen yards went off, and then came that feeling of nothingness which I half expected from a self-hooked trout, and the line came limply back. I waded ashore, stuck the rod in the bank, and started to pack up leaving the rod to the last. About five minutes later I reeled in to find that the trout, who had never left me, was still very much on and lying comfortably in a weed patch waiting for the next stage of operations. After all this bad fishing and gross carelessness I did get him to the net at last, and he was a two-pounder.

THIS sort of thing is by no means rare and has occurred to most anglers, for it is extraordinary how quiescent a fish will be sometimes if the strain on the line is not maintained. Some years ago, when we were fishing for barracouta in the Gulf of Akaba, my wife had a run from a big fish. He went off at a terrific speed for some 200 yards, leaped high in the air, and that was the end of it, for the line came back slack and trailing. My wife reeled in all but some 10 yards and left that dragging in the water, saying she was fed up with barracouta

and was not going to try any more. Half an hour later, as the crew held up on the oars to turn the boat into the mooring stage, her limp line went travelling slowly onwards past the boat—the 50-lb. barracouta had never left her, but had been placidly swimming along in our wake for a mile or more.

AND nothing very remarkable about the fact that a dog gets far more value out of his nose than do we human beings, as the dog's olfactory nerve is as thick as a pocket-book pencil and runs straight from the brain, whereas ours is a miserable little affair, comparable only to the filament of an electric light bulb, and wanders about a bit before it reaches the nose. The dog's sense of smell, he says, is probably 50, possibly a 100, times as keen as our own, and therefore he possesses a power—sometimes not altogether a blessing—which is quite beyond our conception. As the dog's idea of a really pleasing perfume is a very defunct stillborn lamb left out on the hillside, or a gamey rabbit corpse, it is almost impossible to understand the agony he must suffer when a well-meaning mistress washes him with soap scented with parma violet. I am not at all sure that the R.S.P.C.A. should not take action in these cases for causing unnecessary suffering.

A CLEAR instance of the unknown sixth sense occurred some years ago when an old Scottie of mine died suddenly from a heart attack. He had a great friend, a little nondescript bitch, who lived in the Camel Corps lines among the Sudanese about half a mile away, and he was in the habit of calling to see her nearly every day. In the East, where well-bred dogs are rare, the class distinction and rigid line drawn in the canine world is very marked, for dogs are always first-class snobs, and as the little bitch was "below the salt," she never came to the house or the garden, but he met her invariably in her own quarters. She was such a timid small thing, and so uncertain of herself that she would never have dared to enter the precincts of the pedigree dogs and their white folk.

On the day that the old dog died, and about 10 minutes after his passing to wherever it is that dogs go, the little bitch appeared in the garden, whimpering and nosing frantically in every corner, until finally she came up on to the veranda and made a search of every room. It was plain that she knew instinctively that some tragedy had occurred to her old friend.

THE COMING OF SUMMER

By V. H. FRIEDLAENDER

EVER since, one day in the thirteenth century, a jocund anonymous scribe wrote "Sumer is icumen in," poets have been recording the medley of joyous feelings occasioned in all of us by the advent of summer: feelings awakened, as a rule, the first time we hear the cuckoo's call.

How ecstatically we forget, at that moment, that the cuckoo is a veritable Hitler in his impudent annexation of *Lebensraum* in other birds' nests; how, on the contrary, we rejoice in any new tribute to the anti-social creature: such a tribute as has just been paid by a poet writing to-day. Undeterred by the multitude of past offerings to the graceless cuckoo, Teresa Hooley's freshness of feeling, as she heard him lately over "brackened hill and vale" in Somerset, has enabled her to write with exquisite exactitude of

The cuckoo's dual notes of dream, delighting us with yet another perfect interpretation, in the long line that is



"THE GLORY OF LABURNAM-GOLD"

(Left) ELDER BLOSSOM BY THE RIVER IN DOVEDALE



English poetry, of feelings for which there are no words until a poet finds them, reaching them down, as it were, from some depository in the skies to which most of us (although we know by our feelings what the depository contains) possess no key.

With those dual notes of dream, summer is ushered in; the pageant begins; beauty crowds upon beauty, until we are forced to acknowledge that, stand and stare as we may, we shall never be able to see everything before, for another year, it passes.

One day, perhaps, remembering conscientiously that it is not only summer but war-time, and that

All my hurts
My garden-spade can heal,

we may be hoeing among the vegetable beds when an unaccustomed sound reaches our ears. We pause. Is it a 'plane too high to be seen? Guns afar? A car straining up a distant slope? Not at all; the sound belongs to a world simply unaware of the very existence of such things. It is the humming of bees, hundreds of them, as they go enraptured about their business in a tall cherry tree flowering extravagantly all but over our heads.

Then, almost before we have had time to register the thrill of that, the rock garden is claiming admiration. Neglected since last year (the war again), it has, nevertheless, attended calmly to its own affairs, and now blesses us, how undeservedly, with its many-coloured downy cushions of aubrieta, its brilliant colonies of saxifrage, its fairy bells and goblin shapes beyond computation.

But now lilac and laburnum, acacia, lime and mountain ash, to mention only a few of an English summer's commonest glories, demand to take



SUMMER IN THE VALE OF BLACKMORE

At Sturminster Newton: The mill on the Stour

their turn in the procession of colour and of scent, while the rounded, red and white may trees arrive post-haste out of fairyland.

Is it fact, or only fancy, that this summer, after the longest, bitterest winter that most of us can remember, there is a truly prodigal show of all flowering trees and bushes? One after another, garden-owners proclaim that it is fact, as they distribute blossoming largesse far and wide with as much ill-concealed vanity as if they themselves had created it. And, after all, this consciousness of being, if not the creator of beauty, at least in some sense collaborator with that creator, is what lends its secret fillip to the English passion for gardening, although of course any true Englishman or Englishwoman would die rather than confess it. For, hang it all, that would be poetry—and that would be intolerable!

Not all trees come to flowering beauty; but now all trees, despite the fact that they are never at any season less than perfect, have their high moment which we must hurry to catch, or miss.

Overnight, the silver birch becomes "a dainty lady," tossing tasseled plumes; the willow is woven about with veils of misty green; the beech spreads broad fans of branches, but so cunningly that each opening leaf seems to hang, not from any twig, but airy adrift in woodland space.

The massive oak puts out a green leaf so suffused with honey tints, so strongly septeted, so bold and individual, as to force recognition of its name from even the most inveterate flat-dweller; while the delicate, decorative leaf of the ash races the oak to determine (according to the old wives' tale) the summer's weather. This year, happily, the oak has won, so we may at least hope



A ROCK GARDEN: "FAIRY BELS AND GOBLIN SHAPES BEYOND COMPUTATION"

that we shall have "only a splash," and escape the fate once quoted by Charles Lamb: "Summer has set in with its usual Severity."

For now comes, in normal weather, the time of "the warmth of the rain and the homely smell of the earth" in "the blessed green comely meadows"; and, in gardens, the time of roses—which must make haste towards their first blooming because of their annual generous plan to flower as many times as possible before November, with "slow-falling leaves that skein the air with gold," says her everlasting Nay. So the dawn chorus of birds in May is the roses' signal to be up and budding, while all Nature approves of increased pace in industry.

Tailless baby sparrows blunder in at bedroom windows, owing to extreme lack of sophistication in their premature flights; we see "a linnet starting all about the

bushes," and note where

hedge-sparrows try

An inward stir of shadowed melody.

Parent tits flash in and out of garden nesting-boxes at a speed that makes the onlooker giddy and that strips the gay spring feathers off their backs and heads, leaving them bedraggled but proud; for are not those ten entrancing balls of yellow and blue, that flutter for an hour about the garden before taking off into the forest, the incredibly finished results of their labours?

The blackbird, up so early, is also the last to go to bed, flaunting the superior eyesight that enables him to set up such records in ration collecting and daylight saving. But every evening, on the same high branch of the same tree, he remembers that practice makes perfect the celestial smoothness of those

Notes only Eden heard

Gladly, completely.

for they are too poignant for us. So in

meadow and garden, from animate and inanimate nature, we receive gratefully this summer's "solace in our wars," while we remember the doom deferred of the summer of 1939, the grim summer of 1940, the summer among the ruins, material but not spiritual, of 1941.

Silently we give thanks that in England this year the summer is still our summer, and now defended as never before. Soberly, too, but with utter conviction, we look towards the summer that shall be peace.

Perhaps, when that time comes, we shall even have formed the habit of getting up early!—so sweet, do we now realise, are the dews of summer dawns, the cool freshness of early mornings, the glory of sunrises, although now we cannot linger "with the feet of joy in idleness," and savour them to the full.

LAND CONTROL AFTER THE WAR—II

THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

By EARL WINTERTON, P.C., M.P.

AM a Tory, and a landowner, and I have never concealed the fact during the many years that I have sat in the House of Commons. But, in dealing with the problem of agriculture after the war, I do not think that I can be charged with undue bias because of this, for I claim to be land-conscious. To me the neglect of soil capable of producing food—whatever the cause—is a sin against God and man, to be inevitably followed, in a long or short time, by punishment, in some form or other, of the particular community which is at fault.

Again and again, when returning from a visit to the Continent, I have been at once saddened and irritated by what I have noticed between the English Channel and London. In those days, one could see, on that short route, more land uncultivated, under-cultivated, or badly tended, than in a journey of a thousand miles on the Continent, across two or three countries. It was not necessarily the fault of the owners or occupiers. It is more reasonable to assume that it was the British people as a whole who were to blame. But the contrast which I have depicted was both striking and depressing.

Not long ago I drew attention to the point in a speech in the House of Commons, and I was interested to hear the assent, in all parts of the House, which my remarks evoked.

POLICY BY AGREEMENT

From private conversations which I have had with friends of all parties in our Chamber, I am sure that there is a greater consensus of opinion than ever existed before (even in the last war) in favour of devising some system of agricultural policy which will receive the support of all parties when hostilities end.

Some may say, on reading this remark: "But why bring politicians, or politics, into the matter at all?" The answer is that the economic stability of agriculture after the war will require a policy, and legislation based upon that policy; unless the main political parties can reach a rough measure of agreement as to what that plan shall be, a repetition of 1922, with its abolition of the Corn Production Act, will follow.

I am sufficiently optimistic to believe that a political agreement could be reached which would not only be of real benefit to the nation and the industry, but which would command, in general, the assent of those engaged in it—owners and occupiers, employers and employed, alike.

SIR DANIEL HALL'S PLAN

Anything which Sir Daniel Hall says, or writes, about agriculture must evoke respect.

But I do not believe that his plan of nationalisation—*sans* phrase—would fulfil the conditions which I have just stated. Nor do I believe that it is necessary, or desirable, in itself. Control and direction will achieve a better result.

First, one must consider the fiscal structure upon which the policy would rest. Old-fashioned Protection and completely unrestricted entry of foreign foodstuffs are alike impossible.

However little economic "Diehards" (perhaps they would prefer to be called "Purists") may like the fact, there will have to be a comprehensive interlocking policy of subsidies, restriction upon "glut" imports, and reasonably guaranteed markets after the war.

There is no other way of reconciling the interests of a huge industrial population and a small agricultural one than by finding from

the pockets of the taxpayers (which include both) a sum of money to keep down the price of food on the one hand, and to give a reasonable return to agriculturists (employers and employed alike) on the other.

This side of the problem would not be altered in essentials if the land were nationalised. It is true that the element of rent would be eliminated, but, in place of it, the State would have to find large sums of money in interest, as a result of purchasing the land. For no one but a handful of extremists suggests that agricultural land should be confiscated. Apart from its injustice, such a policy would have no chance of being accepted by Parliament, save in the improbable event of there being an anarchist majority there.

PROTECTION IMPOSSIBLE

Protection pure and simple, which gave a fair return to producers from the soil, by putting



THE TOWNSMAN SHOULD NOT HAVE UNLIMITED FREEDOM TO TAKE OVER THE COTTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS



THE FRUITS OF CHEAP IMPORTS

Thousands of acres went out of cultivation, reverting to scrub, and have now had to be laboriously reclaimed

up the price of all foodstuffs to a level comparable to those prevalent in Great Britain before the abolition of the Corn Laws, is a political impossibility. Equally to be ruled out is the notion that, as a result of unrestricted free imports, you can compel farmers and their labourers to live at a vastly lower level than any other section of employers and employed.

Our own history—in the 'eighties and 'nineties of last century—shows that the result of such a situation was the greatest flight from the land, and loss of cultivated acreage, seen in any country in modern times. The full extent of the mischief caused was, to some degree, concealed by the fact that a very large number of rich landowners, who derived their wealth from sources other than the land, let their tenants off all but a nominal rent, and farmed, at great loss, big areas of their own estates in a patriotic effort to get the land cultivated.

Nevertheless I know of literally thousands of acres within 20 miles of my home in Sussex which went out of cultivation in those years, and reverted to scrub. A great deal of it is, happily, being rehabilitated by the War Agricultural Committees, or private owners, at the present time.

STATE CONTROL

But, having given farmers an assurance of reasonable profit in an average season and labourers of a wage not too disproportionate to that of other industries, the State must go further. It must, in fact, control farming operations to a lesser extent, but on the same principle, as they are controlled to-day by the War Agricultural Committees. It has been well observed that some farmers would fail in the Garden of Eden, while others would produce a heavy crop of Monarch wheat in a desert. Mr. A. G. Street, who has done good service in criticising, where necessary, the backsliders of his own profession, has often called attention to this point. It is difficult, under existing tenancy laws, for landowners to evict bad farmers.

The National Farmers' Union is, for all its merits, that which indeed its name implies—an *ad hoc* union—and, despite their protestations, even the best of trade unions are not usually successful in dealing, roughly and drastically, with the congenitally idle and incompetent among their members. That task is performed by other persons. You can hardly expect a county branch of the National Farmers' Union to punish a notoriously bad farmer by reprimanding or fining him, whether he be a member or not.

The War Agricultural Committees must continue in being. They are a proved success.

Their post-war duty will be to encourage the maximum possible production from British soil of the food required, in the national interest.

As is the case at present, they must have power to order the eviction of bad farmers and, in certain cases, to farm land themselves which has been so vacated. But for various reasons it would be desirable that these direct farming operations should be curtailed as much as possible. In some directions the Committees' powers should be extended. They should have the right to recommend (though not to initiate without permission) either to the Minister, or to some central authority set up for the purpose, action against landlords in certain cases. These would include compulsion to comply with the requirements of the lease in matters of repairs, the felling of hedge-row timber (where excessive and inimical to the land), the reduction of game or foxes (in cases where either were in such numbers as to constitute a serious impediment to efficient farming), the use of grouse moors or deer forests for sheep-grazing where economically desirable.

FIELD SPORTS AND FARMING

As a keen sportsman I may say, in parenthesis, that there is no reason why field sports should be inimical to good farming. It is a question of using moderation and good sense. Where it could be shown that the local pack of hounds were going over a particular farm too often, and with too large a "field," there would be power, in the absence of friendly agreement, alike to limit the number of hunting days, and the "field" of that particular hunt.

Similarly, if the proposed authority decided, on the application of the County Agricultural Committee, that there was an excess of game in some district, landowners would be ordered to reduce it (by restricted rearing in the case of pheasants) on pain of being deprived of their shooting rights.

A landlord who had obtained from the central authority—through the County Agricultural Committee—a certificate that a particular tenant was a consistently bad farmer would be able to give him notice to quit, notwithstanding anything contained in the various Agricultural Holdings Acts. In other words, the certificate would, by itself, be adequate grounds for terminating the tenancy.

The same procedure would be followed when the County Agricultural Committee wished, of its own volition, to terminate the occupancy of a holding because of bad farming.

THE RIGHT OF APPEAL

It may be objected that to constitute a central authority to give the County

Agricultural Committees jurisdiction to act in certain cases would be needlessly to duplicate work, and increase bureaucratic power. But the answer is that, great as has proved to be the honesty and integrity of the War Agricultural Committees, it is undesirable, in peacetime, to extend their powers, or even to allow them to exercise all their existing ones, without reference to a higher authority.

The aggrieved party would, of course, have the right to put his case to this authority. But the circumstances in which this reference would operate would have to be strictly limited. An order to plough a particular field would not be included in them, but, as I have already said, an eviction order, on grounds of bad farming, would be.

On some estates, owned, or purchased in recent years, by wealthy men from the towns, farming has suffered because the owner is more interested in the amenity value of his property than he is in agriculture. Such men would be spurred to a more vigorous effort to increase food production, by fear of the obloquy attaching to action, or rebuke, by County Agricultural Committees possessing the powers which I have suggested.

FOOD PRODUCTION FIRST

There is bound to be a wide extension of town and country planning after the war. The Agricultural Committees should have power to examine all schemes and report if they entail unnecessary interference with food production. Similarly, they should have the right to object to private bills promoted by local authorities or public statutory bodies, which prejudicially affect farming interests. The confirming authority in the one case, and Parliament in the other, would naturally pay heed to these representations.

Finally, they should have power to schedule certain cottages as being for the use of agricultural labourers only. In most areas near towns, all over Britain, much hardship has been caused for years past by the habit of buying the cottages of farm labourers as week-end residences. The occupant is tempted to go out by a large payment of money, and then finds he cannot get another cottage. The spirit, though not the letter, of the Rent Restrictions Act is being broken by these transactions.

This, in brief, is the outline of my scheme for post-war agriculture. I claim that it offers a reasonable "middle of the road" course, thus fulfilling the greatest of all British principles—compromise.

Next week's article in this series will be
by Lord Northbourne

BUTTERFLIES ON THE WING

Written and Illustrated by L. HUGH NEWMAN

WE have become so used to admiring a butterfly as it poises gracefully on a flowerhead, daintily sipping nectar from the scented chalice, that few of us would recognise the same insect at a distance in flight, or for that matter the majority of common butterflies that pass through our gardens in summer without pausing for refreshment.

Of course, their colour helps us to identify some of them, but apart from this, how different on the wing is the Cabbage White from the Red Admiral or the Peacock! The first-named is a foe, and how we hate its floppy, lazy mode of locomotion, while the Red Admiral glides silently by and planes down on to a buddleia bush and we applaud its grace and welcome the vivid splash of colours its scarlet and black wings make against the purple trusses. The Peacock hustles along like a fussy old lady,

with that curious and characteristic rustling sound that reminds one of the Victorian era when ladies wore voluminous silk petticoats that betrayed their presence only by their sound!

Many of us recognise a bird first by the silhouette it cuts against the sky. The dark saturnine rook beating its way home on ragged wings high up in the twilight sky, the sudden swerve and dive of a wood-pigeon into a clump of ivy in a tree-top, like some grey-winged Hurricane homeward bound to its hangar, or the nervous flicker of a sparrow-hawk as it hangs poised for a power drive; all these are familiar by their flight alone. But not so the butterflies. Blues, Browns, Fritillaries and members of the Vanessa family—most people could not put a name to them until they settle, and, fanning, their wings, display their colour and patterns like the illustrations in a butterfly book.

For sheer grace and beauty of flight, there is nothing to touch the White Admiral. No entomologist will dispute this. These butterflies are no longer on the list of rarities, and you may often come upon them quite suddenly in an open patch in the woods where the sun can only pierce the overhanging foliage of the trees around with narrow shafts of gold. Like a spotlight on the stage the rays will pick out a spray of bramble blossom, and you may see one, two, or even three White Admirals at rest on these pinkish flowers. Despite their striking colour contrast, black with bands of white on all four wings, they are not at all conspicuous, in this setting of shade, shadow and brilliant light. Their colouring is a natural camouflage. But as you move they will rise as one and with hardly a perceptible flutter will glide away into the undergrowth to seek another tangle of thorn which they use as an alternative rendezvous. But stand and wait, and one by one they will presently return, absolutely silently, with that proud, regal, unhurried glide we know so well.

Apart from the migrants, the gay Painted Ladies and Clouded Yellows, which are continually colonising new districts as they arrive from the Continent, the Brimstone is the only pioneer among our British butterflies. Watch one flying along a country lane; it hardly ever turns back but flies on and on as though eternally seeking some Eldorado. These butterflies must cover a great many miles on a sunny day. A female will pause a moment when she comes upon a buckthorn bush in the hedgerow and deposit a pointed yellow egg on a prominent twig. Go and look at that spray and you will probably find it smothered with tiny eggs, for all the passing females seem to choose the most conspicuous leaf on which to lay. Unfortunately, this does not mean a fine brood of butterflies later, as through eons of overcrowding the caterpillars have developed a decided tendency to cannibalism.

Many butterflies have a definite territory of their own, in much the same way as birds. I know of a pathway along the sheltered sunny side of a wood, which I have called Peacock Walk, as every spring these butterflies monopolise it exclusively. If a Green Veined White or a Speckled Wood or an Orange Tip should appear, they are unceremoniously hustled away by two or three of the Peacocks.

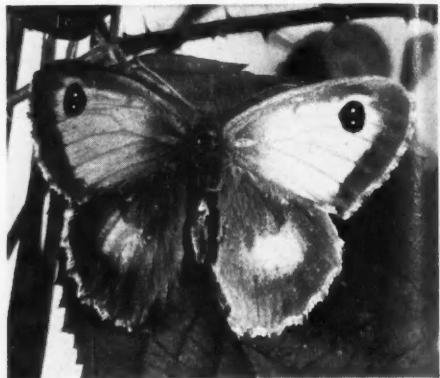
The Fritillaries have a very distinctive flight, that is reminiscent of partridges when a covey is flushed; a wild flutter on rising, a short glide, another flutter, and then a long glide to the next alighting spot. Notice the Dark Green Fritillaries on the hillsides for this characteristic flight when they rise at your approach. How different from the Browns. The little tawny Gatekeeper dallies in a sunny lane, never venturing more than 50 or 60 yards in its brief life. The Meadow Brown will live and die in



THE DARK GREEN FRITILLARY HAS A PARTRIDGE-LIKE FLIGHT



FOR BEAUTY OF FLIGHT NOTHING EQUALS THE WHITE ADMIRAL



GATEKEEPER NEVER FLIES MORE THAN 60 YARDS FROM ITS LANE



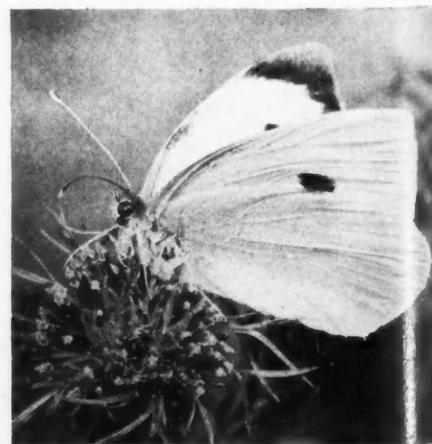
PAINTED LADY—A COLONISING VISITOR FROM THE CONTINENT



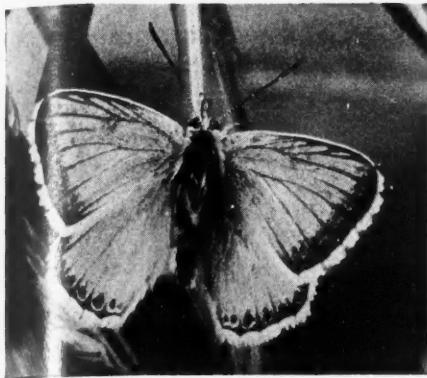
THE PRETTIEST BUTTERFLIES TO WATCH ARE HAIRSTREAKS



THE CLOUDED YELLOW CONTINUALLY COLONISES NEW DISTRICTS



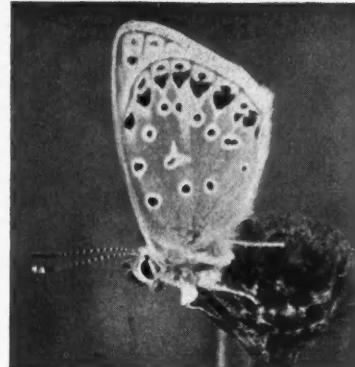
CABBAGE WHITE, NOTORIOUS FOR ITS LAZY MOVEMENTS



CHALK-HILL BLUE

the same field where it is born. This is usually borne out by the local races that are characterised by variations of the "eye" spots fixed through inter-breeding.

Perhaps the prettiest of all the butterflies to watch are the Hairstreaks, but you want a good pair of binoculars to see their antics clearly. The Green Hairstreak is the commonest and easiest to find. The undersides of their wings are the green of hawthorn leaves, so they usually choose a twig of this bush to settle upon. Walk along the sunny side of the bushes and tap them as you pass. All at once one or two



COMMON BLUE

will flip out looking like bits of leaf rising in the air, but instead of falling like leaves, they will loop the loop, twist and turn, and weave a hundred patterns in the sky all in a minute. This is the everyday aerial display of the Green Hairstreak. The others in the family, the Brown, Purple, White-letter and the Black Hairstreak, all behave in the same way, but you must be something of an entomologist to track them down.

And then there are the Blues. During the daytime they are as fidgety as children, "dancing" from flower to flower in the meadows



SWALLOW-TAIL

and on hillsides. But when the evening comes they all congregate, as though, like youngsters, they were frightened of being left alone in the dark! You may come upon them on a late summer evening just as the sun is dropping behind the horizon, dozens of them clinging to the grass stems, one above another like tiny living jewels with their scintillating wings wide open to catch the last rays of the sun. And then, as the light fades, they slowly close their wings over their backs, and all that beauty is hidden until the sun brings them to life again on the morrow.

SOME HILTONIANA

WHEN I wrote the other day of the death of Harold Hilton I was conscious of wanting to say many things about him for which there was no space. Conscious also that I should have liked time in which to read again his own writings on golf. Since then I have re-read what I take to be the best exposition of his views, namely, his chapter called *Golf: Theoretical and Practical*, published in 1912 in *The Royal and Ancient Game of Golf*, of which he was one of the editors. It is full of shrewd and interesting judgments on the game, and I propose to take one or two which illustrate peculiarly well his gift for analysis of his fellow-golfers.

Of this gift he writes with extreme modesty. "I do not profess to know the weaknesses of other players' games, as one can only guess at them by means of observation, and I have found that the majority of players are not very ready or willing to acknowledge to any decided flaw in their armour, except it be in the case of their putting." But, he says, everybody has certain shots that he plays with confidence and certain others that he approaches with a lack of it. That is a most penetrating truth. We do not tell other people of the shots we are afraid of, partly for fear of boring them, partly from vanity perhaps, but largely because we have a muddle-headed feeling that we are giving valuable information to the enemy, as if a batsman were to tell a bowler the particular ball he dislikes. Yet everybody, I believe, has some strokes that he loves and some that he fears. How many of us, for instance, having toiled out with a wind partly on our backs, at once adverse and sly, have turned homeward with infinite relief and felt almost arrogantly happy. I am sure I must have quoted before Mr. V. A. Pollock's joy in the "Guardbridge wind" at St. Andrews. He always lashed at the ball with a fine dash, but when he was on his homeward way with that wind coming a little from the right, he fairly flung himself at the ball in an ecstasy of confidence. Every man has his own "Guardbridge wind," and its merit is this, that he may not always hit the shot but he always thinks he is going to. To give a small personal instance, I always feel happy if the ball lies a little above me; my swing seems suddenly to become rounder and more comfortable, and though I may make the worst shot in the world I shall still be sure, if I get another such lie, that I am going to make a good one.

Hilton had his own little private weakness in his youthful days, one shot that frightened him. At last he cast out fear by practising.

The full iron shot and the wrist shot had no terrors for him, but with the shot between the two he felt, he said, "all at sea." Even when he played it successfully in practice, he would hesitate in a game and take refuge in the wrong shot rather than dare the right one. Still he laboured on till he had conquered it, encouraged by the great mastery of this shot possessed by Mr. John Ball, and in the end he came to think that the power of playing a half-iron shot "represents all the difference between being a first-class player and a second-class player."

To return to my original quotation, that is a shrewd thrust in our tenderest quarters, the saying that we are much more ready to acknowledge a weakness in putting than in anything else. He goes on to amplify his statement thus: "One has great difficulty in coming across any who are ready to admit that their success is in any great degree due to their work on the green, as they seem to think it savours of an admission which casts reflection upon their play in other departments." It is, I think, certainly true that a man is much more ready to admit that he won a particular match by putting than that he is in general a good putter; but there is this to be said: no man, not even the very best, is always a good putter in the sense that some men are always good drivers. We can all putt on some days, and there are days when the greatest cannot find the hole. So there seems a peculiar tempting of Fate in any man saying that he relies on his putting.

Now let me turn for a moment from the idiosyncrasies of other golfers to one that was his own. Those who saw him play or have at least seen photographs will recall how delicately he seemed to finger the club and especially how his right little finger was held off the club altogether. Nearly everything he did had been very carefully thought out, but this peculiarity was not. It arose from his having tried in youth to imitate the overlapping grip of Mr. Laidlay, who was the first great golfer he had watched from outside the bounds of Hoylake. He found his hands were not big enough nor his fingers strong enough and so gave up the attempt, but his period of imitation left him with this heritage, that his little finger remained in the air and not upon the club. Though he was never himself an overlayer, he was persuaded that this was the best way of holding a club, but not for the reason usually advanced, that it makes the two hands act as one. He had long come to the conclusion that for the swinging of a golf club the human being "has too many fingers on this particular hand."

By BERNARD DARWIN

He went on to point out that Mr. Ball, despite his apparent "palm" grip, in fact only used three fingers of his right hand, since "the forefinger of his right hand was pointing out into space, as if it took no interest whatever in the task in hand."

Another little personal point which is interesting is that Harold was not, so to speak, born a great practiser, though I cannot help thinking that he must sooner or later have become one. He was induced to practise by the example of one who has now been properly, if retrospectively, canonised as the first Amateur Champion, Mr. A. F. MacFie. We think now of Mr. MacFie as a St. Andrews golfer, for he has lived there many years, but that is to do an injustice to Hoylake. It was at that great golfing school that he graduated, hitting ball after ball away in the dusk so that the caddies, when next morning they found balls that had grown up like mushrooms in the night, knew who had been out on the evening before. Unless in later years it was Mr. Travis, "I do not suppose that any player living has practised the game of golf so assiduously as Mr. Allan MacFie did in those old days at Hoylake." I imagine Harold himself must have come within measurable distance, and of modern players Cotton must be a dangerous challenger.

Everyone thinks of Harold Hilton as pre-eminently a wooden club player. Probably wooden clubs held the keenest experimental interest for him; it was with them that he played the greatest number of what he called "pranks," but his personal affections never blinded him to realities, a fact that made him a wonderfully impartial judge of a golfer, whether friend or foe. So though wood amused him or, in modern language, "intrigued" him most, he said this: "I hold very decided opinions that iron play is far and away the most important department in the playing of the game. . . . The shot up to the hole is the backbone of the game: a failure at it invariably ends in disaster." He thought that the great improvement in golf which had taken place since his early days—particularly among the professionals, for he was, when he wrote, a little depressed about the amateurs—was due to "the development of a certain hard forcing wrist-shot," and that this in turn was due more to Harry Vardon than to any other one man. And with that I again come to the end of my space, with the feeling that there is much more to be said about Harold Hilton than I can say. There are just a few people in the world who really know a subject: he knew golf.



SEDGWICK PARK, HORSHAM—I

THE HOME OF
MR. AND MRS. W. H. ABBEY



TWO VIEWS OF THE GARDEN FRONT

The wide terrace, paved with huge Horsham slabs, and the parterre below where the stately yuccas are in their full splendour

THE corner of West Sussex with Horsham as its centre would seem to be endowed with special attractions for the gardener. There are Leonardslee, South Lodge and the late Mr. Millais's garden at Compton's Brow, and in this select company the garden at Sedgwick Park is one of the most distinguished.

It is now over 50 years ago since the late Mrs. Henderson, the then owner, began to create the garden on part of the site of the ancient park, to link the new house to the spacious landscape. Now that it has attained maturity, the success of the achievement can be fully appreciated. Few better examples exist among modern gardens of the alliance between enclosure and outlook. Formality sufficient to give the house its proper setting in such spacious surroundings is happily married to natural beauty, and the garden development is of exactly the right kind in accord with the needs of the magnificent site and with modern taste which demands flowers and colour as near to the house as possible.

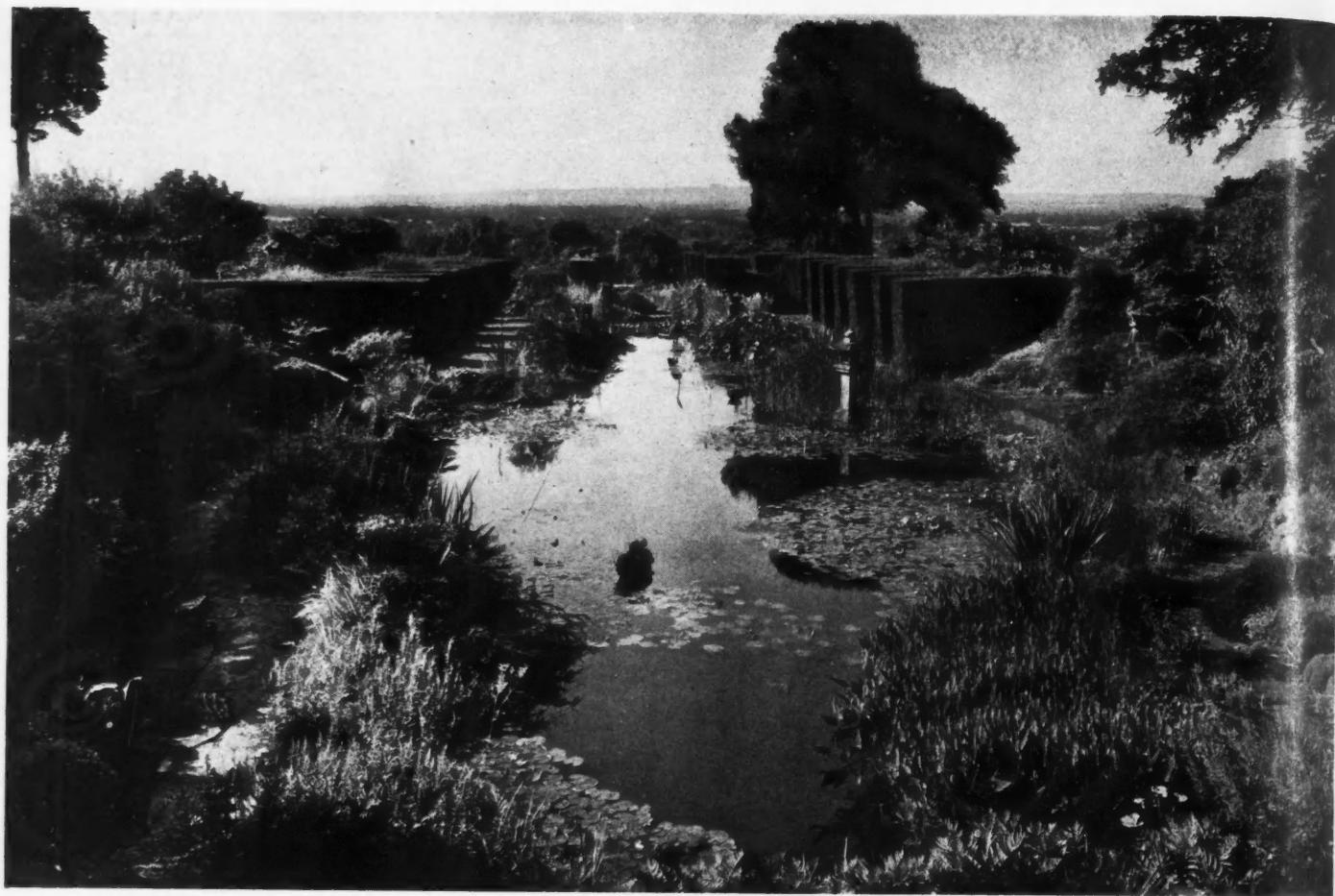
The house, the long history of which will be described next week, stands on a hill overlooking a vast panorama of finely wooded countryside, the old hunting-ground of William de Braose, lord of Bramber, which stretches southwards to the ridge of the downs with a distant glimpse of the sea.

A wide terrace paved with huge random slabs of the ripple-marked Horsham stone, quarried in the park, sets off the building on the south side. A strictly formal surround serving as an architectural frame to the building, it also provides scope and opportunity for the cultivation of numerous climbers which adorn the walls, and low-growing shrubs and other flowers in the narrow borders below the walls and on the wings, which form a foundation planting and a harmonious setting to the house, linking it to the garden developments beyond. To the left, the terrace is carried round a lovely group of yuccas against the dense shade of which the spires of yucca tell with dazzling effect. Surely nowhere else in England have these most exotic-looking of hardy plants been used so freely and pictorially. Several enclosures lie in this direction, sheltered from the north by a terrace built against the side of the hill.



GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE: THE VIEW FROM THE TERRACE TO THE SOUTH

A panorama of lawn and flowers, water and trees, woodland and down framed by noble pines



OVER THE WATER-GARDEN FROM THE BASTION. The formal layout is ended by a series of parallel yew buttresses



A CORNER OF THE WATERSIDE IN HIGH SUMMER
Variety and contrast in colouring, form and texture, with the yew buttresses above

and spanned by a series of green arches. Below the main terrace level a broad flight of steps, flanked by stone vases, descends to a semi-circle, a miniature amphitheatre, again paved with great Horsham slabs, softened by an appropriate furnishing of pavement plants, pinks, campanulas, thymes and the rest, enclosed on the house side by wide and dense curving hedges of clipped yew, at the ends of which are bronze statues of classic athletes mounted on stone piers acting as buttresses to the terrace, the retaining wall to which is clothed with trailing growths and rock plants.

From the paved amphitheatre, in axial line with the main door on the south front, a long and broad paved walk flanked by clipped yew hedges leads to the main feature of the layout—the semi-formal water framed by enclosing buttresses of clipped yew. Fringing the hedges are broad strips of mown turf, margined by a simple and bold pattern of large flower-beds filled with a variety of hardy flowers, roses and gladioli, among which the picturesque spires of the yuccas are an outstanding feature. The edges of these beds are interestingly treated with small slabs of stone set against them at an incline, their interstices filled with rock plants. The broad walk ends in a paved bastion with a sundial as the central feature, and the focus point to the vista down the path. Here the sudden slope of the hill has afforded scope for further terracing. Flights of steps on each side of the bastion descend to the lower level where set in an arched recess under the bastion, framed in yew and creepers, a seat is happily placed commanding a view down the water-garden.

Set between rocky banks clothed luxuriantly with flowering shrubs, and topped by the shaggy crowns of pines, is a picture of almost sub-tropical luxuriance and splendour in high summer, when the host of plants by the water-edge are in their full tide of loveliness. Beyond, the pool narrows to a channel towards the view, framed by succeeding parallel planes of clipped yew, like great buttresses; a most effective geometrical device that emphatically terminates the formal layout but at the same time carries the eye onwards into the landscape. Although planned on formal lines, the water-garden itself shows a happy combination of nature and artifice. Moisture-loving plants, chosen for their beauty of flower or architecture of foliage, fringe the margins of the water. Slender leaves of iris, grass, and rush have a foil in the boldly sculptured foliage of *Saxifraga peltata*, *rodgersia* and marigold, while, close by, the spreading sails of *Cotoneaster horizontalis* afford an impressive contrast to the elegant spires of loosestrife, the graceful wands of spiræas and astilbes and the floating pads of the water-lilies which star the quiet surface of the pool.

Beyond and below lies the wooded weald, stretching away until Chanctonbury and the line of the downs end the distant prospect, a magnificent landscape rich and varied, that shows to the full England's green beauty.

Water and trees, grass and flowers, terrace, wall and hedge, each play their part in making Sedgwick a garden as rich in picturesque incident and detail as in enchanted vista and broad landscape effects. In the sympathetic hands of Mr. and Mrs. Abber the promise of the place has been carefully preserved and enhanced. The garden is now invested with a rare individual character and charm which give it a distinguished place among the gardens of England.



BACK FROM THE END OF THE POOL TOWARDS THE HOUSE



YUCCAS AGAINST THE DENSE SHADE OF ILEX.
The extension of the paved terrace eastwards from the house



THE PERGOLA WALK ALONG THE TOP TERRACE
Margined by bush roses and groups of hardy flowers and shrubs

THE AMAZING MOUSE

By FRANCES PITT

ALITTLE mouse in the grass of the meadow, a brown, furry, insignificant creature, does not appear an animal of importance, except perhaps to the kestrel hanging on quivering wings overhead or to the owl passing on muffled pinions through the shadows of the night.

Mr. Charles Elton of the Bureau of Animal Populations, Oxford, has just published a book, *Voles, Mice and Lemmings: Problems in Population Dynamics* (Oxford University Press, 30s.), which is solid evidence to the contrary. This is a weighty volume in every sense of the word. In something approaching 500 pages of close print is set forth many years of research into the problems of the ebb and flow of small rodent populations and the far-reaching effects of their increases and decreases on other mammals and on human affairs.

It has long been known that the common vole of our meadows, the aforesaid small, brown, furry beast that lives in the grass and on it too, for it is a grass-eater, will occasionally multiply until it reaches "plague" proportions and does serious damage in the countryside. Only those who have watched a vole plague can realise what it means. It was my fortune to view that which occurred on the hills around Lake Vyrnwy in 1931. Here the Liverpool Corporation had planted extensive areas of hillside, much of the catchment of their great reservoir, with young trees. These plantations, in which a growth of rank grass, etc., afforded good shelter for small rodents, were soon teeming with mice. When I visited the spot all greenstuff had been eaten, only dead yellow stems remained, and the voles had begun to ring many of the young trees and were barking branches in the wayside hedges. The scene was unbelievably desolate, and the damage was considerable. The principal, very much the principal, culprit was the common meadow vole, but it was aided by the bank vole and assisted by the long-tailed mouse. However, the voles and mice were not having things all their own way. Above hovered kestrels doing their bit towards coping with the plague, buzzards too were on view, and there was evidence of good work done by weasels and stoats.

Six months later I revisited the place. All was now fair and green, and not a trace of a vole was to be found—the plague

had already passed into bygone history.

Similar stories are told of vole plagues at one time and another in various parts of Britain and in many other parts of the world. Mr. Elton begins his book by quoting an account of a vole plague in Alsace in 1822: "a picture of insurgent subterranean activity, of devastation breaking like a flood upon the crops. All man's vigilance and care are taxed by the multitude of small, swift, flitting forms that infest the ground and devour all living plants."

He goes on to review the phenomenon of mouse and vole plagues in every part of the world, including the history of mouse fluctuations in Europe, and deals at length with British research into animal populations, especially the investigations of the Oxford band of workers.

by, among other means, intensive trappings of small rodents and by breeding voles in the laboratory.

After telling the story of this work Mr. Elton turns to the lemming and wild-life cycles in Scandinavia. The periodic migrations of the lemming have long been known; its frequently recurring "epidemics," when it descends from its home on the high fells and overruns the lowlands, being perhaps the most spectacular of the fluctuations in animal populations.

The lemming, personally, is a charming small beast, in appearance somewhat like an under-sized guinea-pig clad in black, cream and chestnut, but collectively, especially when on trek, it is an undesirable creature. A Norwegian lady told me she had been ill and attributed her ailment to drinking water from a well that had been contaminated by many lemmings having fallen in and been drowned in it. Mr. Elton refers to a fever contracted by man from lemmings.

The lemmings travel on and on, seemingly obsessed by an urge to go forwards and downwards. Water does not daunt them, and many meet their death in river and fjord.

But, like the voles, the lemmings come to an end. They vanish, and the lower country knows no more of them for a year or two, perhaps for several years, though on an average they rise to a peak every third or fourth year, however, sometimes the flood is less than at other times, and it is not every peak period that produces migration on a grand scale. But the cycle is there, and the wild predators of the country, the foxes, owls, harriers and so on tend to fluctuate with the same periodicity.

Turning from Europe to North America, Mr. Elton deals at length with wild-life cycles in northern Labrador, where in the vast regions of an untamed land furs have long been sought. In the records of fur returns there is a wealth of valuable evidence on animal populations, the rises and falls of which are easily discerned. The author has also collected much data regarding mice and lemmings, and again we find, as in Northern Europe, the three- to four-year cycle and the correlation between rodents and predators, these beings rising and falling in numbers with a steady rhythm that gives us an awe-inspiring glimpse of laws and forces we as yet but dimly comprehend, with complex problems of far-reaching effects. For instance, even if it be but a minor example, it is undoubtedly the abundance or scarcity of mice in North America that affects the number of wild-caught silver fox furs worn by ladies in London.



ENGLISH MEADOW VOLES

"The small, brown, furry beast that lives in the grass"



LEMMING PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE DOVRE FJELD

"A charming, small beast like an under-sized guinea pig"

These students early realised the importance of population fluctuations and saw that they were not confined to small rodents. They also realised that "the numbers of a species have something of the same rhythmical quality as atoms, sound-waves, tides, planetary orbits, and indeed also many of the features in animal physiology."

At this time an American mathematician and, independently, an Italian mathematician suggested on purely mathematical grounds that animal communities must oscillate without regard to external disturbances such as climate and seasons.

Research was concentrated on elucidating these problems, the work being carried out with vast enthusiasm and under constant difficulties, such as shortage of funds. Studies of animal populations were pursued



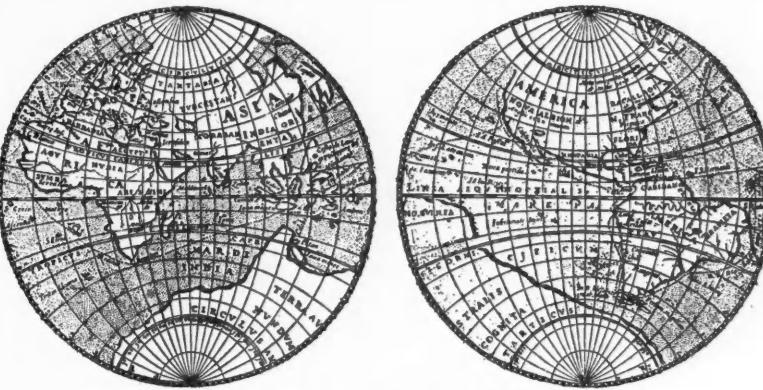
ENGLISH MEADOW VOLE (Left) AND ORKNEY VOLE
The Orkney Vole is like the English Meadow Vole but a little larger
(Photographs by Frances Pitt)

DRAKE'S MEDAL

FOR the second time this season a relic of the great seaman Sir Francis Drake has come into the market. The first, Drake's Globe Cup, is now appropriately housed in the Plymouth Gallery; the second is that interesting contemporary record of the voyage of his ship, the *Golden Hind*, "which ploughed up a furrow round the world," the rare Drake medal. His circumnavigation began in 1577 and ended in September, 1580, when the crew "with joyful minds hearts" entered Plymouth harbour, the ship very reightened with gold, silver, silk, pearls and precious stones.

The medal is a circular plate engraved on one side Eastern and on the other with the Western Hemisphere the course of the amazing voyage is shown by line.

It was sent in 1586 by Queen Elizabeth on a secret mission to the Netherlands, and while there he charged Michael Mercator (grandson of Gerard Mercator) to draw him a map of the world, showing the track of his voyage, to be hung in the Queen's gallery. It is believed that Drake ordered at the same time a miniature of this map to be engraved on both sides of a silver plate, which is preserved at Nutwell



1.—THE DRAKE MEDAL

A circular silver plaque engraved with the Western Hemisphere on one side, the Eastern on the other, showing Drake's circumnavigation; inscribed: *D.F. Dra. Exitus anno 1577 id. Dece. Reditus anno 1580, 4 Cal. Oc.* Probably by Michael Mercator, 1586



2.—LOUIS XVI CLOCK

Formed as a vase supported by the Graces and surmounted by Cupid, with horizontal dial; ormolu, 20ins. high. A pair of candlesticks *en suite*, with figures of nymphs, 16ins. high. Royal Monjouye factory

Court, the Drake family seat in Devonshire. It is recorded in *Purchas his Pilgrims* "that Michael Mercator, a Dutchman, cut a ployt" (plot) of Drake's voyage in silver. Of the four other specimens of the Drake medal (which were probably given away by Drake as presents), two are at the British Museum. This medal, formerly in the collection of Admiral the Marquess of Milford Haven, comes up for sale at Christie's with the varied collection of the late George Lockett, on June 11 and 12.

Besides the rare Drake medal, Mr. Lockett acquires a large collection of silver, French furniture, enamels, maiolica, and armour. Among French furniture of the eighteenth century are to be noted a pair of *encoignures* inlaid with branches of flowers and foliage in a tulipwood ground, mounted with ormolu and bearing the stamp of Joseph

—LOUIS XV COMMODE

Lacquered with Chinese decoration in black and gold, slightly heightened in red; ormolu feet. Stamped *D.F. ME*

(1745-72), *ébéniste privilégié du roi*, the maker of some rich and sumptuous pieces of furniture decorated in marquetry or in lacquer. There are examples of his work at the Palace of Versailles and at Windsor Castle. There are also specimens of the work of Riesener, Dubois and Cramer. There is an attractive specimen of the use of lacquer panels in conjunction with ormolu, in a commode with shaped front and splayed ends entirely lacquered with Oriental landscapes, animals and flowers in black and gold, and richly mounted with ormolu borders and scrollwork chased with flowers (Fig. 3). The contrast between the black lacquer ground with its designs in gold with touches of red is brilliant.

The commode by Riesener, which dates from the Louis XVI period, is veneered with figured mahogany and mounted with a delicate frieze and angle mounts in ormolu. Among French decorative objects of this period is a fine clock in an ormolu case with a horizontal revolving dial (Fig. 2). This is surmounted by a figure of Cupid, whose arrow points to the hour on the dial band, and supported by a group of Three Graces, after the sculptor Falconet. In the pair of candlesticks *en suite*, the candle-branch is held up by a figure of a nymph. This *garniture* is said to have been made at the Royal Monjouye factory, where only objects for the use of the French Royal Family were made, and which ceased at the Revolution. Another pair of candlesticks with Royal associations is in ormolu and enamel and was originally the property of Marie Antoinette at the Trianon. The ormolu stems support enamel wax-pans; the circular enamel plinths are painted, probably by Cottreau, in grisaille.

There are also some good examples of Italian maiolica and faience, several pieces (such as a Limoges dish, and two plates by Jean Courtois), from the Duke of Newcastle's sale in 1921. The plates, painted in the centre with scenes from Genesis (Pharaoh's Dream, and Joseph as ruler of Egypt), are in bright and brilliant enamel colours on a gilt ground, and the borders are painted with Renaissance ornament of masks and caryatid figures.

The last day of the sale includes Mr. Lockett's collection of arms and armour, drawn from Sir Leonard Brassey's, Sir Guy Laking's and Mr. Morgan Williams's collections. From the Morgan Williams collection is a fine French or German *salade à queue* dating from about 1460; and from the Bernal collection a full suit of German armour bearing the Nuremberg guild mark and dating from the middle decade of the sixteenth century which is "homogeneous and apparently without restoration." J. DE SERRE.





A BROAD BEAN SHOOT INFESTED WITH APHIS OR BLACK FLY

IT has been said, not without a certain amount of truth, that growing good quality vegetables in this country seems to consist in waging one long and constant battle against the worst of all possible climates and the forces of destruction in the shape of insect pests and fungus diseases which are ever present. Every crop would seem to have its accompanying troubles, and notwithstanding good methods of cultivation, the latter invariably get the upper hand unless prompt and efficient measures are taken to prevent and control them. Good cultivation certainly goes far to eliminate pests and disease, as a healthy and well nourished plant is always better able to withstand attack, but it is not enough in these days of intensive methods of cultivation. It must be reinforced by the application of preventive methods of disease and pest control carried out at the proper time. Twenty-five years of intensive research work at various horticultural stations up and down the country have done much to increase our knowledge of late regarding the measures to be taken for the treatment and control of the different pests and diseases, and gardeners nowadays have little or no excuse for tolerating pest- and disease-ridden crops and poor returns.

From the standpoint of their control, insect pests can be divided roughly into three categories according to their way of feeding and

HYGIENE IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN

By G. C. TAYLOR

How to deal with some of the commoner pests and diseases affecting vegetables. Measures to apply for their prevention and control. This year, when the production of food is vital, it is essential to take adequate precautions to ensure clean and healthy crops.



BRUSSELS SPROUTS "BUTTONS" FOULED BY CABBAGE APHIS

mode of life. The first group, comprising the vast family of the aphides or green and black flies and capsid bugs, obtain their food by extracting the sap from the plant tissues by means of sucking organs. The second, embracing beetles, weevils and caterpillars, feed by biting leaf and stem; while the third, comprising wireworms, leather-jackets, millipedes and the maggots of the onion and cabbage flies, are soil pests feeding on roots and necessitating control measures entirely different from those demanded for the open-air pests. It is always well to be certain of the identification of the pest, for on its nature depends the remedial treatment to be undertaken. Crops that have been attacked and weakened should receive a nourishing dressing, after the pest has been checked, to build up their vigour, and for this purpose there is nothing better than nitrate of soda applied little and often. Any of the brassica crops, for example, attacked in their seedling stage by flea beetles, celery and parsnips disfigured by leaf miner, and carrots and onions affected with fly, will all benefit from a dressing of nitrate of soda as well as by regular hoeing between the rows and a surface mulch of lawn mowings which helps to conserve soil moisture and thereby encourage growth.

Perhaps the most widespread pests of vegetable crops are aphides. No matter the nature of the season they appear with unfailing regularity—black fly on broad beans, green fly on peas, potatoes and lettuce, and mealy aphis on cabbages, Brussels sprouts and allied

brassicas. A nicotine soap wash at the rate of about 1oz. to 1 gallon of water is an excellent spray when the crops are young, but for older plants a spray of derris insecticide or dusting with derris is better and safer. Spraying or dusting should be carried out at the first signs of attack, and repeated if necessary. The same treatment should be carried out for all the allied pests, and when attacks of the cabbage aphid occur the prophylactic measures should be supplemented by the prompt removal of old stumps and leaves which, if left, serve as centres of infection for young plants. When they are seen on potatoes, prompt steps should be taken to deal with them, for the aphides are in all probability carriers of virus disease which it is impossible to eradicate once it appears.

Another pest which seems to abound everywhere is the flea beetle, which attacks turnips, cabbage, Brussels sprouts and other cruciferous crops during their early stages and causes considerable injury, by pitting the leaves, which in severe cases shrivel and die, and may ultimately lead to the death of the seedlings. Seedlings of cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, turnip and radish should always be carefully watched in spring, especially in a dry season such as we experienced this year, and if the presence of the beetle is suspected, the rows should be dusted with derris dust, preferably as the seedlings are coming through the soil and again when they



A LEAF OF CELERY ATTACKED BY BLISTER LEAF MINER

Leaf mould is one of the most familiar diseases of the tomato. It begins as greyish white spots on the under surface of the leaves



TURNIP SEEDLINGS ATTACKED BY FLEA BEETLES



LEAF MOULD ON TOMATO FOLIAGE

have formed their first rough leaves. An additional precaution practised in some market gardens is to mix the seeds of turnips, etc., with whizzed naphthalene before sowing in order to render the seeds evil-smelling, supplementing this with a dusting of derris or naphthalene as the seedlings begin to move but before they are through the ground.

Dressing the soil with naphthalene at the rate of 1—2oz. per square yard is also an excellent treatment for carrot and celery fly. The former is a troublesome pest on some soils, and where attacks have been bad it is important to see that the seed-bed is firm and that dusting with naphthalene is carried out when thinning is done and all the punctures left in the rows removed. The thinnings are carefully packed and the surface made firm. With celery fly, the maggot of which produces the well-known blisters or mines on the leaves by burrowing under the surface, dressing the soil with naphthalene along the rows of young plants is a preventive. All blistered leaves should be removed and destroyed, the plants dusted with a nicotine insecticide.

Another serious pest that has had the light of popular attention focused on it during the past two years since onions became such a notable crop is the onion fly. The maggots of this fly advance rapidly along rows of onions, devouring the young bulbs as they go, and even larger and old bulbs are not immune. There is no cure for the pest once it has attacked in force, and for this reason it is always better to take steps to prevent its occurrence. Recent research at Cambridge has shown that 4 per cent. calomel dust acts as a deterrent and that dusting the rows with this substance at the rate of about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to a 25yd. run, forming a ribbon of dust on each side of the seedlings, is an excellent means of prevention. The dust is best applied when the seedlings are just about an inch high, and

a second application should be given about 10 days later. The same treatment—dusting with 4 per cent. calomel—is an excellent means of preventing the attack of cabbage root fly on seedling cabbages and is more convenient than placing tarred felt discs round the seedlings when they are transplanted, which is the more usual method of warding off attacks of this pest.

To check the depredation of caterpillars in general, there is no better or more convenient treatment than spraying with derris insecticide or dusting with derris dust, and in late summer this should be a routine duty where there are beds of cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. Wireworms are more difficult to check and destroy, and although fumigating with naphthalene at the rate of about 3oz. per square yard dug into the soil is often recommended, it is not completely effective. This treatment, however, will assist in destroying woodlice as well as millipedes and leather-jackets.

The diseases of vegetables are hardly less numerous than the injuries caused by insect pests, and to attempt to give anything like an exhaustive survey is beyond the scope of this article. Only the more important can be referred to and measures suggested for their control. One of the most important, perhaps, which everyone should be on his guard against next month is the blight of potatoes caused by the fungus *phytophthora*. This disease, which is always most severe in moist and warm weather, when it spreads rapidly, causes the complete destruction of the stem and foliage with a consequent reduction in the yield of tubers as well as a rot of the tubers themselves in the ground and in store. Prevention is essential, and the best precaution is to spray the potatoes early next month and again three weeks later with Bordeaux mixture or one of the colloidal copper compounds at the rate of about 4oz. in 5 gallons of water.

The same treatment should be given to tomatoes outdoors, especially when they are growing near potatoes, as the blight also attacks tomatoes and spreads from one crop to the other. So it is as well to spray both crops with Bordeaux at the same time as a precaution. One of the most common diseases affecting tomatoes is leaf-mould, and when this appears spraying with Sulsol or Bouisol is the best treatment. This also applies to onion mildew, while for mildew on peas, which is often prevalent on the later-sown varieties, a dusting with green sulphur or flowers of sulphur is the best preventive. One of the most serious diseases affecting the brassica crops, cabbages, cauliflowers, sprouts, etc., is club root, which causes swellings on the roots and invariably the failure of the complete crop. It is not to be confused with the swellings caused by the gall weevil, which are readily distinguished if the swellings are cut open, when the grubs will be seen inside in the case of the latter. Club root is always worse on acid soils, and heavy applications of lime each year will do much to check the trouble, especially if precautions are taken to change the ground for brassicas every year. Watering the seed-bed with a solution of mercuric chloride at the rate of 1oz. to 12 gallons of water will also do much to prevent infection and is a treatment well worth trying by those who are badly affected with this serious disease owing to the acid nature of their soil.

In waging a struggle against pest and disease the gardener can have no better motto than "Prevention is always better than cure." The wise gardener will always do his best to prevent the occurrence of trouble by the undertaking of appropriate sanitary measures and the practice of good cultivation, but where, in spite of precautions, pest or disease becomes apparent, then control measures should be put in hand at once in order that risk of widespread injury may be reduced and the production of a reasonably sound and healthy crop assured.

CORRESPONDENCE

A ROYAL ARTIST

From *Lady Cynthia Colville*.

SIR,—I am commanded by Queen Mary (who has seen the letter in COUNTRY LIFE on May 15 from Mr. J. Coutts Duffus on the subject of paintings by the Empress Frederick) to write and say that there are several examples of her work at Windsor Castle, done actually after her marriage to the then Crown Prince of Germany.

One of the most interesting of the pictures executed by Victoria the Princess Royal, as she was at that date, was one of a dying soldier and a woman watching and weeping over him. This was painted by the Princess at the age of 14 in aid of the Patriotic Fund founded by Prince Albert in 1854, and was sold for £250. The whereabouts of this picture is not known.—CYNTHIA COLVILLE.

SPARROW-HAWK AND CANARY

SIR,—I wonder if any of your readers can tell me if it is usual for a sparrow-hawk to fly up to the windows of a house in order to attack a tame canary in a cage? One day last week my children were sitting reading in the day nursery when they and their nurse were suddenly startled by a commotion in the canary's cage. On looking up they saw poor "Dickie" fluttering agitatedly round his cage while a kestrel beat his wings against the closed window, evidently bent on attack. The kestrel is an old acquaintance, but in the past has confined his activities to a field about a hundred yards from the house. This winter, however, he has come very much nearer, and we have several times watched him hovering over our rough grass, some 10 yards from the house terrace. I need hardly add that the moment the children ran up to the window, the kestrel made off and we have not seen him since.

THE TRAVELS OF COUNTRY LIFE'

From *Lady Anstruther*.

SIR,—Seeing other readers' accounts of the travels of their copy of COUNTRY LIFE, I think you may be interested in those of ours. It reaches us only at third hand, from my sister-in-law via her brother; we send it to my daughter and son-in-law's family, where it is hugely appreciated. Returned here, it goes to several households at a neighbouring seaside town, then to Army Welfare Centres, where I lose track of it. It is really wonderful how you keep up such widespread interests, always something fresh and of beauty, and certainly a single copy gives a great deal of pleasure.—MILDRED ANSTRUTHER, *Ballaskie, Pittenweem*.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FUND FOR SAILORS

SIR,—I find recorded in a memorandum book of my great-grandfather, John MacArthur (who died in London in the year 1825, and was born, or at least baptised in 1740), the following:

"October, 1798.—Paid subscription at Lloyds Coffee House towards the Relief of the Widows and Children of the brave Men who fell in the Service of their King and Country and for such as have been wounded in the glorious victory obtained by the British Fleet under the command of Adm'l. Nelson, over the French Fleet on the 1st of August in the Mediterranean.—£10 10s. 0d."

—ALCE HUGHES, *Palissy House, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight*.

SHOT TOWERS THAT SURVIVE

SIR,—Further to your correspondence on the number of shot towers still existing—no one seems to have mentioned that which stands in Crane Park, Twickenham.

Built in 1825 or 1828 (the date above the door is not clear) by Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, owners of the Hounslow Gunpowder Mills, it was in use up until about 1921. During the Great War it was utilised as a gunpowder store, afterwards remaining derelict until about 1936, when the park was laid out. Only the top few floors now remain—with no staircase to reach them and the base is used for storing gardeners' tools and suchlike.

Hounslow Powder Mills are famous for: (1) Having been the first gunpowder mills in England (powder manufactured there was used at the Battle of Crécy); (2) the number of fatal and terrible explosions that occurred there.

I have seen only one old print of the mills, and that is dated 1858, showing the shot tower after an explosion.

I should be interested if any of your readers can supply any further information on this ancient factory.—F. FABIAN, *Feltham, Middlesex*.

OUR GEESE

SIR,—In recent issues of your very valuable paper a number of excellent

articles have appeared upon geese and the profitable and economic side of their production. Mostly these have been written by experts, with the main idea of encouraging mass production, so it seems to me that it may be of interest to you and your small-holding readers to read of my wife's and my experience with these birds as amateurs.

As an introduction, we live in a two-storeyed house, really a glorified bungalow, on the outskirts of Royston, and with it we have a lawn not quite big enough for a tennis court; some rough grass, chiefly taken up by chicken-runs, and a vegetable garden. That explains, very briefly, our property. To continue, just over 12 months ago I was offered four goose eggs at a shilling each, so bought them and took them home to my wife, who, having a broody hen on hand, set them under her, with the result that, during the first week in the June of last year, we became the owners of four young geese who, on very ordinary feeding, grew up until they were of such an age that we could ascertain that the quartet was made up of a gander and three geese. Admittedly, we were lucky in this, but no matter. Time went on and the autumn and winter came, when they, having lost all their interest in their foster-mother, hunted the place over for dandelions and when they had all disappeared turned their attention to the lawn and from then on have kept it as clean as if it had been mown twice a week and, furthermore, have cleared it of all plantains and other rough grass that have hitherto been a nuisance.

Beyond the grass and whatever else they could pick up, their diet consisted of boiled potatoes with a very occasional handful of corn on the rare occasions when there was any to spare from the chickens. Seemingly they thrived on this, and on February 4 of this year began to lay, since

when—and this is written on May 1—the three geese have laid 88 eggs, 57 of which have been disposed of for a total of £6 10s.; 18 are at the moment in the process of hatching, and the remaining 13 have been utilised for household purposes.

Maybe this is just another example of novice's luck. Honestly, the result looks too good to be otherwise, but actually it is just an aside, as John James, Muriel, Matilda and Mae West, as they have been called, and to which names they respond when called, have become such a part and parcel of the place that there would seem to be something wanting if John's knock on the back door for four buckets of bath-water were not heard at eight o'clock precisely every morning, or if Mae West did not fly away to somewhere unknown one evening a week and return as religiously the following morning looking a good example of "a morning after the night before." We have had many pets—including tame owls—on our domain, but nothing so profitable or fascinating as geese. To watch Muriel or Matilda—the two that are sitting—when they are taken off their nests in the morning or at night, go straight to their bucket-baths and then go and inspect each other's nests before returning to their own, is a sight worth seeing. Matilda's "sniff" if she notes a feather out of place in Muriel's domain is most undignified; Muriel's condescending walk past Matilda's abode is priceless, as it suggests that such a nest is so utterly beneath her interest. The prospective arrivals are awaited with interest; the post-arrival happenings should be exciting. We just wonder what Mae West will do.

Incidentally, though "our children" have free access to the kitchen garden they have never done the smallest damage, but rather, by clearing out the dandelions, have helped the good work on.—ADAIR DIGHTON, Kneeshworth, near Royston, Hertfordshire.

LORD STAWELL'S GHOST AT MARELANDS

SIR.—In his agreeable article on Marelands, Mr. Hussey recounts a legend that the house was haunted by the ghost of Lord Stawell, a sinister character who left an evil reputation at his death. There can, however, be no truth in the story, since Lord Stawell lived 20 miles away at Hinton Ampner and had no connection whatever with Marelands.

The strange events which occurred at Hinton Ampner following his death in 1755 have been many times retold, notably during the last few years in the books compiled by Lord Halifax and Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell, it being traditionally rumoured that his violent spirit haunted the scene of the murder of a child which he had by his sister-in-law, Honoria Stewkely.

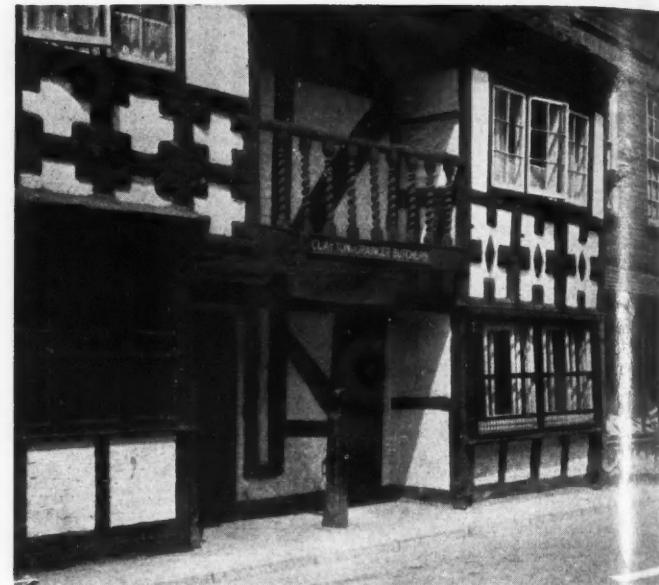
Lord Stawell's grandson, the second baron of the second creation, who died in 1820, held the post of Ranger of Alice Holt Forest and occasionally lived at Marelands on its fringes. He was a respectable if not very prepossessing individual, judging by a portrait I have of him painted late in life, but the suggestion that he repeated at Marelands the same crime imputed to his grandfather with the addition of the murder of his sister-in-law is, I am happy to say (since I am his great-great-grandson), devoid of all foundation.—RALPH DUTTON, Hinton Ampner House, Alresford.

A SALOPIAN DEVICE?

SIR.—Much Wenlock has many interesting old buildings besides the famous abbey. This shop front photograph shows part of Raynalds's Mansion, one of the finest of the half-timbered houses here. Originally all one, it is now two shops. Over one of the bay windows is carved: John and Mary Raynalds 1682. This is the date at which the projecting bays and the balcony were added, for most of the house is 50 years earlier. The unique feature is the post and rail projecting from the wall beneath the balcony. Until lately this supported a flat shelf to help a man load heavy sacks on to his back. By a strange coincidence, a similar porters' rest, which is to be seen in Piccadilly, was placed there, as an inscription records, "for the benefit of porters and others carrying burdens; on the suggestion of R. A. Slaney Esq. who for 26 years represented Shrewsbury in Parliament." Perhaps London copied Wenlock!—M. W., Hereford.

A PORCUPINE'S QUILLS

SIR.—From the bund of a large irrigation reservoir a friend of mine shot, the other day, at a mud-hole skirted by forest, a porcupine which is very destructive to crops. I noticed that the beast had, in addition to the long, rigid, spiny quills, a set of short, slender-stalked, hollow quills round about the tail. They were open at one end, and were not unlike a miniature cigarette-holder.



THE POST AND RAIL UNDER THE BALCONY ARE THE REMAINS OF A PORTERS' REST

(See letter "A Salopian Device?")

Though I had read in books by naturalists that the purpose of these hollow quills was to give out a peculiar warning rattle as the animal vibrated its tail when irritated or alarmed, I was wondering what exactly the function of these special structures might be. Were these quills just freaks or malformations, or were the sockets in them just bases from which a new quill arose, I began to wonder.

Some village veterans, who happened to be near by and who are usually well versed in jungle lore, told me that in these hollow quills the mother porcupine carried water from the water-hole for the young to drink. When I shook my head in doubt, one of the villagers pulled out a hollow quill and, filling it with water, showed me that, when the quill was turned upside down, the contents did not run out; but that only when the bottom end of the quill was pressed, the water came out. I tried the experiment several times, and found that it was so.

Feeling still sceptical, I pointed out that, if the young were too young, and so small that they could not accompany the mother to the water, they would in all probability be still living upon her milk, and would hardly require water.

"Who knows if the porcupine's milk needs no diluent?" came the rural rejoinder. "Or can it not be that the young ones, although quite capable of following the mother, are warned not to follow her in her nocturnal raids in view of the many dangers, and that if they obeyed mother and remained in the burrow, she would bring them home a most welcome drink in those quills?"

I still shook my head in doubt, but not without being impressed by my country cousin's clever explanation, and feeling a sneaking suspicion.

that, after all, his theory might be right too.—S. V. O. SOMANADER, Batticaloa, Ceylon.

[The countryman's theory of the use of the hollow quills on the porcupine's tail was certainly ingenious, but we share our correspondent's doubt as to its being correct. We think the long-accepted explanation is the right one, namely that the hollow quills help to make yet louder the warning rattle that deters would-be foes from lightly attacking this formidable rodent.—ED.]

AN ISLAND CHURCH

SIR.—The Saxon church on Caldy Island, off Tenby, Pembrokeshire, must be one of the smallest churches in the country, for it seats only 16 to 20 people. Its plan resembles that of the British churches of the eighth and ninth centuries, and it is probably of the same period, as you can see in the photograph. The steeple leans slightly out of the true, some 40 ins. There is something very attractive in the stark simplicity of the architecture. Caldy Island has been inhabited by a Cistercian community of monks from Belgium since 1929. F. R. WINSTONE, Bristol.

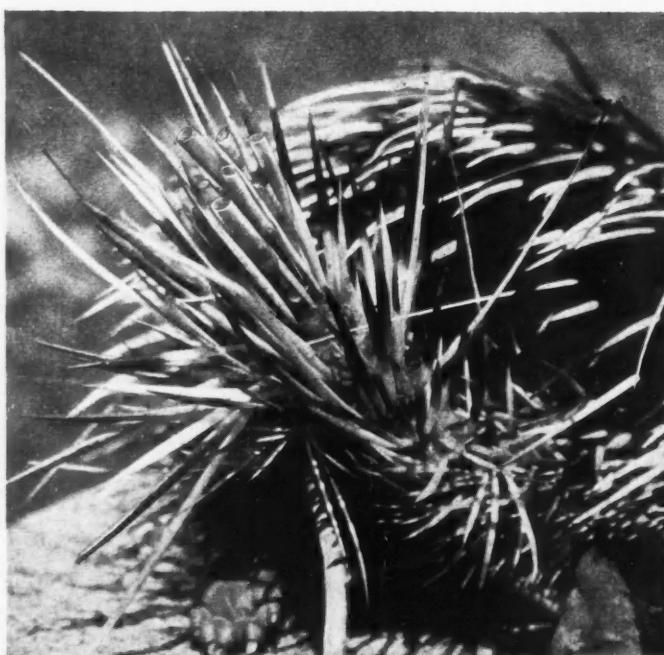
THE SUSSEX SMOCK FROCK

SIR.—I have been most interested in some discussions lately on the subject of the Sussex smock or "round frock" as to which is correct. Of course in old Sussex it is known as the round frock and the ornamental stitch on it as smocking. Hence the word "smock."

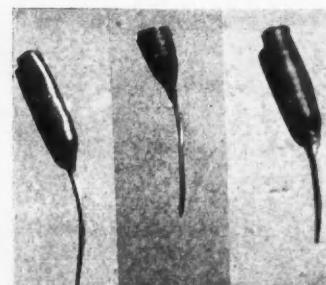
When I first married we lived in a remote village near East Grinstead where lived a carter's wife who was a first-class smocker. She made what she called "round frocks" for my little boys in her spare time, but her chief work was concerned in making all the round frocks for the men on a local large dairy farm.

These were in an off-white hand-woven linen. For the local woodmen they were in a hand-woven (almost black) dark grey linen smocked in white, open back and front, and finished with little pearl buttons in pairs. This Mrs. Botting or Langridge or Ticehurst—I forgot which Sussex name she had—was such an expert that she never used any preliminary gauging for her smocking but picked up each stitch as she went, keeping a perfectly straight line.

Perhaps it may be of interest to your readers to know the plan of the traditional Sussex smock or round frock. There is no cutting-out as we know it. It is a series of squares



THE STRANGELY FORMED HOLLOW QUILLS ROUND
(See letter "A Porcupine's Quills")



THE PORCUPINE'S TAIL



THE SAXON CHURCH ON CALDY ISLAND
(letter "An Island Church")

in proportionate sizes. Front and back each a square, likewise sleeves, under each armhole a gusset (square), at each wrist-opening a tiny gusset (square). Cuffs are squares; also the collars in which there is a variation, as either two squares are used to each cuff or collar, making it double, or one square and the square folded,

also making it double, but half the width.

At either side of the smocking on chest and back a margin occurs. This was embroidered in what I think we should call stem-stitch—in circles for carters, scrolls for shepherds. The other emblems I do not remember.

Very many years ago, so long I dare not think, I was staying on a farm in the South Downs. There are no more beautiful spots in all the world. While I was there the great sheep fair at Lewes took place. The chief shepherd of the farm had flocks of five and six hundred and had to drive them to market for sale. Early on the morning of the fair the shepherd led his flock slowly through the village dressed in his best—a spotless white round frock, knee breeches, coarse white stockings, low black shoes with buckles, and scarlet handkerchief knotted at his neck, and a round black soft felt hat. His crook shone like silver. He was 6ft. tall and had white whiskers. He knew he looked handsome. His name was Woolgar.

Those good old days seem very far away.—H. LUMLEY ELLIS, London, W.1.

CAN A DOG BE CURED OF HEN-HARRYING

SIR,—I wonder whether any of your correspondents could tell me whether a nine-month-old Lakeland terrier who attacks hens can be cured and if so what method is recommended, as otherwise under existing conditions the dog will have to be destroyed?—A. PIMM, Taunton.

[It is so difficult to break a dog from attacking fowls that we think it would be wiser to have it destroyed. However, we knew of a case of a terrier that killed ducklings and was cured thus: one of the slain ducklings was tied to its collar and it had to carry it for some days. Everyone who met the terrier said "Shame!" It never so much as looked at a duckling again.—ED.]

TWO WINDOW DIALS

SIR,—Your readers will probably be interested in this sundial, which is not mentioned in the article (March 20) by J. D. U. Ward. It is at Lacock Abbey, where Miss Talbot recently kindly allowed me to make this drawing. It also, like the one at Winchester College, has the legs of the fly painted on the exterior surface of the glass.—E. M. M., Worcester.

NEWS-SHEET FOR CHINESE

SIR,—I believe that all the Allied Nations at war have their own London newspaper now except the Chinese.

However, this omission has been rectified in rather a novel manner, for in Pennyfields, Stepney (London's Chinese colony), Cheng Chung every day extracts items of war news from our papers which are of particular interest to his fellows and re-writes them in Chinese for the

benefit of his fellow-countrymen who cannot read English.

He then sticks his news-sheet on a wall in Pennyfields.

Cheng Chung writes it in the proper Chinese manner with a brush dipped in a bowl of ink, and to read this sheet one must start at the bottom right-hand corner and read from right to left upwards, or in exactly the opposite manner to which we read.—METRO.

THE CENTENARY OF BENJAMIN AISLABLE

SIR,—On June 17, 1941, a cricket match was played at Rugby to celebrate the centenary of the historic match of June 17, 1841, described in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, for which Mr. Benjamin Aislable, honorary secretary and president of the Marylebone Cricket Club, took down a M.C.C. team to Rugby. On June 28 Mr. Alfred Cochrane contributed an article on "Mr. Aislable" in COUNTRY LIFE, illustrated with his portrait, after the oil painting by H. E. Dawe, R.A., representing him seated and holding in his hand a book entitled "M.C.C. Subscribers to Matches," which hangs in the Pavilion at Lord's. "Aislable," says Mr. Philip Norman in his *Annals of the West Kent Cricket Club*, "was a loyal Old Etonian, fond of taking down elevens to play the boys"; and a print from his portrait, engraved in mezzotint by the artist himself, "was for years handed down to each captain of the Eton XI, the names of successive elevens being written on the back."

One of the guests at Tom Brown's Centenary Match last year was his great grandson, Mr. Philip Aislable Landon, M.C., and vice-president of Trinity College, Oxford, and honorary treasurer of Vincent's Club, who took down with him to Rugby for inspection a number of historical family mementoes of his ancestor, including the miniature and silhouette portraits of him, which are illustrated here, in commemoration of the centenary of his death, which took place on June 2, 1842.

Benjamin Aislable, of Lee Place, Eltham, Kent, of the Yorkshire family of that name, connected with the Aislables of Studley Royal, and grandson of Rev. William Aislable, Rector of Birkin, Yorkshire, in the early eighteenth century, was born in 1772 and died at his London house, Park Place, Regent's Park. The story of his association with Thomas Lord in the reorganisation of the M.C.C., his election as honorary secretary in 1822 and president in 1823—the only member who has combined the two offices—and of his prowess on the cricket field, were set out in Mr. Cochrane's article last year. In 1838, four years before his death, a subscription was raised by the members of the M.C.C. for the erection of a bust of him in the Pavilion at Lord's, and a testimonial, now in Mr. Landon's possession, contains a list of the subscribers and a description of the set of silver plate which was purchased with the surplus of the subscription and presented to him by the "Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Marylebone Club."

The miniature, painted between 1795 and 1800 and ascribed to N. Freese, an accomplished miniaturist, who exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1794 to 1814, depicts Benjamin Aislable in his early twenties. Some 20 years later, in 1818, the silhouette portrait by T. Atkinson, "Bronze Profilist to Her Majesty, His R.H. the Prince Regent and Royal Family, Strand, London," was taken, with that of his wife, at



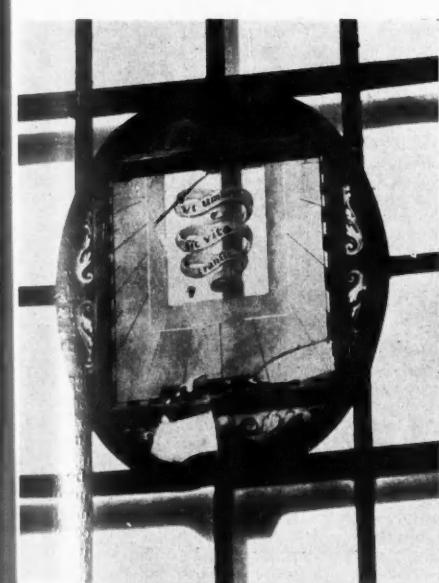
BENJAMIN AISLABLE
(Aged about 24)
MINIATURE by N. FREESE
(About 1798)



(Aged 44)
SILHOUETTE by T. ATKINSON
(1818)
(See letter "The Centenary of Benjamin Aislable.")

Brighton. Though only 44 years old he had already become very stout; and at 67, when he took part in the classic match at Rugby, he is recorded to have weighed between 17 and 18 stone.

It is a matter of surprise that one who did more than anyone in his day to promote the national game of cricket should not have had his name recorded in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Though his portrait and bust are enshrined at Lord's, until the recent presentation by Mr. Landon of photographs of his miniature and silhouette, no portrait of him, either painted or engraved, was preserved in the National Portrait Gallery. Perhaps some reader of COUNTRY LIFE who possesses a copy of his engraved portrait may be able to make good this deficiency.—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, *Highclere, near Newbury*.



THE WINCHESTER COLLEGE
Fly is to the left at the bottom of the scroll
(See letter "Two Window Dials")



NEWS-SHEET FOR THE LONDON CHINESE
(See letter "News-Sheet for Chinese")

FARMING NOTES

THE EXTRA SUBSIDY ON LIME

VEN during the summer there are some comparatively slack times when farmers can think ahead about future requirements. Between the finish of spring sowing and the start of hay-making is one of these periods, and then if we get hay-making finished up in good time there is a gap before corn harvest on many farms. So there will be an opportunity for some farmers to take advantage of the extra subsidy on lime which is being given between the middle of May and the end of August. The Exchequer grant for agricultural lime is being increased from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. to encourage farmers to take summer deliveries. The idea is that the lime producers should be able to operate their works throughout the year at maximum capacity and keep the stuff moving out regularly through the summer, as well as through the autumn and winter. Taking lime in the summer is a nuisance because it generally means storage and double handling. This payment is intended to compensate the farmer, and although some large farmers do not have to count their pennies so carefully now, there should be a good response to the offer.

* * *

NO doubt if complete soil analyses were made of all the fields in the country, it would be found that lack of lime is still holding up crop production in many instances. One hears of lime being applied where it is not really wanted, but I cannot imagine that this misuse of a subsidised product is at all general. After all, the farmer still has to pay part of the cost, and no one throws away money. It is a simple matter to get a test made for lime deficiency. All the farmer has to do is to write a postcard to the District Officer of the War Agricultural Committee and ask him to do a lime test on the fields which he suspects may be short. Some crops need lime more than others, but it is sound policy to maintain the lime content of the soil at a satisfactory level for all crops so that cropping can go ahead through the rotation without any hitches.

* * *

IF we are to grow more wheat for the 1943 harvest it will mean some cross cropping which will not go well with those farmers who take a great pride in the cleanliness of their land. But if extra wheat grown for the harvest of 1943 will help to shorten the war by several months or by a year, no farmer will mind taking risks. How much extra wheat can be grown will depend largely on the weather we get in the autumn. If corn harvest can be finished up in reasonably good time and we get the right weather in September and October, we can do some autumn cleaning and pack in a good deal of extra wheat. Wheat after wheat is not generally a popular proceeding, but where the land has been ploughed out of grass the second wheat crop often yields better than the first. Moreover, in these days when combined seed and fertiliser drills are used widely, the second straw crop can be given a flying start with sufficient plant food to stimulate full root growth in the autumn, although the fertility of the field as a whole may not be very high.

* * *

I HAVE not put in my kale yet. I am waiting until the second half of June. In my experience, the earlier sowings, unless they can get a start in March, so often go down with fly that it is better to wait until mid-summer to put in the seed. Kale sown comparatively late need not be hand-hoed. Indeed, it is best left to grow rather thick in the rows so that the stems do not get coarse and there is plenty of top. Some people broadcast their kale and do not attempt to do any hoeing, not even horse hoeing. This is all right if the ground is clean, but annual weeds have a way of appearing, and I always like to be able to get the horse hoes through the kale two or three times.

* * *

THE Ministry of Agriculture has brought out a useful bulletin on *War-time Poultry Feeding*. This can be got for 3d. from H.M.

Stationery Office. The value of this bulletin, written by Mr. E. T. Halnan of Cambridge, is that it sets out plainly the best ways of using household waste and the other substitute foods on which poultry farmers have to rely nowadays. Mr. Halnan tells how to feed acorns, artichokes, beech-mast, buckwheat, chestnuts, dried grass, and even hawthorn berries. All these in their way are valuable in supplementing the meagre official rations allowed to poultry in war-time. But it is mainly to household waste and processed urban swill that the poultry-keeper has to look to provide the bulk of the sustaining food that hens need if they are to lay a full number of eggs. One of the great problems in poultry keeping now is to give the birds enough suitable food to keep up production. They can be kept alive on tail corn and various oddments, but they must have a balance in their feeding if they are to produce eggs through the autumn and the winter.

* * *

IT is reckoned that the higher prices for lambs this season and the better price for wool will give an extra return of about 10s. for every

ewe in the breeding flock. This will be a help to arable flock-masters. They feel that this is not enough and that they ought to get more generous assistance for keeping hurdle sheep on arable land and thereby maintaining fertility for future corn cropping. The additional 10s. on every ewe will, however, amply meet the increase in shepherds' wages, and if the flock can be carried on I am sure it is still a sound investment, taking the long view. The numbers of grass sheep must have fallen heavily during the past two and a half years. The last statement I saw was that numbers had been reduced by 3,000,000 since the outbreak of war. I doubt whether there need be a further heavy cut because we are most of us getting more of our land into short-term leys, and the sheep is an excellent grazer of leys, converting grass into meat and leaving valuable fertility behind. Indeed, it is only by putting the sheep on to leys that we can keep the flocks together. The remaining permanent grass is getting so short that if it had to carry sheep all the time it would become very sheep-sick and we should run into troubles that way. *CINCINNATUS*.

THE ESTATE MARKET

QUICK RE-SALES OF LAND

OME of the buyers at recent auctions have been justified in their calculations that such portions of the property as they did not want could be re-sold on advantageous terms. In normal periods it was not at all uncommon for buyers to acquire far more land than they really required or could conveniently pay for, and re-sales were easy to effect. As things are to-day, there is not quite the same certainty of a speedy disposal of unwanted parts of a property as there was, say, five years ago. The resources of anyone who contemplates such transactions need to be greater than in the days when a provisional re-sale of part of a property could be counted upon, if necessary before the formal completion of the contract of purchase of the whole. Probably to-day, in the case of the acquisition of properties comprising good agricultural land, neither delay nor other difficulty is likely, if the re-sale relates only to farms and small holdings.

One or two large estates have lately been brought under the hammer, after a prolonged preliminary period of announcements to the effect that in no circumstances would any portion of the property be sold beforehand. For what it is worth, this assurance gives tenants and others a good deal of satisfaction as would-be buyers, and experience seems to show that it is a procedure affording an appreciable advantage to vendors. Inasmuch as the tenants and others know that they will have a fair chance of bidding they feel that it is worth while to look thoroughly into the question of buying.

AT TOKENHOUSE YARD

SPECULATIVE transactions in the inferior types of London premises used, years ago, to be largely on the basis of the expectancy of re-sale within a week or two; in fact, the earlier ventures of some who eventually became quite affluent were made with a dangerous lack of capital, seeing that deposits on the purchase money were forfeitable and that, in fact, they were sometimes forfeited, on account of inability to complete the contract. The old-time "ring" of dealers at the Tokenhouse Yard Mart seldom let any of its members suffer in that way. Of course, it need hardly be pointed out that those transactions fundamentally differed from present-day purchases and re-sales of landed property.

RE-SALES AFTER AUCTION

M. R. HUGH WYLLIE, the buyer of Rush Court estate of 1,415 acres up the Thames, has re-sold, to a client of Messrs. Watkin and Watkin, North Farm, Shillingford, a holding of nearly 530 acres. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley held the auction of the whole estate, by order of the High Court. The freehold realised £61,000.

Since their recent auction of the late Mr. H. C. Clifford-Turner's Heathfield Park estate, Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, with Messrs. Geering and Colyer, have sold two or three lots, namely, shops and flats in Bexhill, and Kingsley House, Ardingly. Offers are invited for the mansion and 368 acres.

Last April Messrs. Fox and Sons arranged for the holding of an auction of Gables, a freehold bungalow and nearly two acres, at Friars Cliff, Bure,

in the vicinity of Christchurch. At the eleventh hour the property was officially requisitioned, and the auction was cancelled. Soon afterwards the requisition was withdrawn, and Messrs. Fox and Sons have just sold the freehold for £3,000. For executors, the firm has disposed of a freehold in Victoria Park Road, Winton, near Bournemouth, a modern detached house, for £970.

IMPORTANT SCOTTISH SALE

COLONEL E. R. KEWLEY, D.S.O., M.C., for whom Captain Percy Wallace acted, has purchased the Ralton estate, Inverness-shire, after having been tenant of the shootings. This first-rate shooting estate is near Newtonmore station, and it has shown excellent game-bags.

Although the number of enquiries is far below the lowest average in recent years, agents report indications in the last few weeks of a reviving interest in Scottish sporting properties. In this section of the market, as is the case in others, far-seeing buyers are attracted by the low-level of prices. The private sales of many thousands of acres await announcement in due course.

LAND SOLD NEAR NEWMARKET

APPROXIMATELY 2,000 acres, close to Newmarket, Mrs. Tharp's Chippenham Lodge estate, have just changed hands. The estate is a couple of miles from Newmarket, and the main road from that town to Norwich makes two miles of its frontage. The Kennett, the stream constituting the county boundary of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, forms part of the fringe of the estate. Mrs. Tharp intends to retain her Chippenham Park estate, and the old manor house of Badlingham. The sale has been made to an investment buyer. It includes Badlingham Hall Farm, 600 acres, and other large holdings, among them the major portion of La Hogue Farm, with La Hogue Hall, as well as valuable woods and plantations. The agents were Messrs. Lacy Scott and Sons.

A ROMAN CAMP

PART of a Roman camp is on Barbury Castle Farm, which Captain J. W. W. Bridges has asked Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. Loveday and Loveday to sell at Swindon on June 15. It was at Barbury Castle Farm that Mr. Tom Sutton trained those well-known horses, Brown Jack, Kellsboro' Jack, and the 1938 winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Morse Code. The farm of 596 acres is in a fold of the Marlborough Downs, between Swindon and Marlborough, and there are an old farmhouse, sound buildings and a capital modern bungalow. It should be added that a buyer will receive a net rental income of £498 with no payment for tithe or land tax and he will have the advantage of being able to occupy the bungalow and practically the whole of the raising and farmbuildings should he so desire.

The estate of Tonley in Aberdeenshire, which was advertised as for sale by auction on May 28 by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, was disposed of privately, as a whole, beforehand, and the sale was therefore cancelled.

ARBITR.



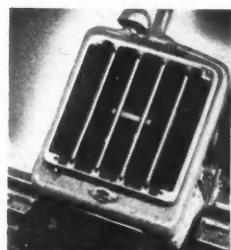
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ANOMALIES OF FARM FINANCE

By GERVAISE TURNBULL

THE great difficulty which has been experienced in adjusting prices to give farmers a square deal is a fair commentary on some unique characteristics of agriculture. Its finance follows the same paths as the finance of commerce, but is not governed by the same basic rules.

As regards livestock, this indeed would hardly be possible—so much depends on the market and local demand. And here some curious anomalies. Why should a yearling stock fetch more in proportion than older lambs more than tegs, and foals more than yearlings? A six-year-old horse—town apart—may fetch the same price as a four-year-old of equal merit, though he has obviously a shorter life ahead of him. A cow sell for more than a heifer, though admittedly she will give more milk for a while. A sow at her second or third litter may fetch more than a gilt, for though she is older, she has proved herself a breeder. In all such cases is there any standard to go by, as with the increased price of wine as it ages—any yard-stick such as is found in commercial life? Not yet, though it may come.

HIT-OR-MISS

It all seems to the layman to be of the hit-or-miss type of calculation—of the “up and down corn” order—and perhaps it is impossible for it to be otherwise—with very uneven and unfortunate results at times. A good root year, for example, always forces up the price of store stock because “keep” is plentiful, though the reaction of the fat market may be in the opposite direction and the grazier loses heavily. Topsy-turvy finance!

Agricultural costing, as understood by farmers, at least, shows the same vagueness, the same inequalities and inaccuracies as farm finance in general. Apparently, too, the higher authorities have found it difficult, even impossible, to systematise, though we do not forget what a great subject it was to be under the Ministry after the last war, and the large staff that was in process of formation to deal thoroughly, if not permanently, with this knotty question. The sudden dispersion of that staff is only another instance of the utter lack of policy or planning on the part of our legislators, which has been for so long the fate of farming. Poor Cinderella! No wonder she screams and kicks. This failure, even in these days of “factory farming” by determined and more businesslike men, at least shows us how different everything to do with agriculture is from commercial business.

ACCOUNTING METHODS

On individual farms, however, the subject is less difficult; otherwise agricultural valuers would go out of business. Their accounting methods, however, may leave much to be desired. Indeed, one of the more able of the profession has said that many valuers would be more practical if they were more theoretical—a chilly verdict! Small wonder, then, that farmers’ figures, if only in self-defence, should err on the high side, consciously or unconsciously, and it seems most probable that some of their discontent arises from their belief that their costs are higher than they really are.

This was well shown some years ago when wages were still well under £1. A young farmer, whose father was a farmer-valuer, told me that he put his horse labour at 5s. per horse, though a fair simple calculation put the more or less figure at about half that sum (Morton, authority somewhat earlier, put it even allowing for depreciation and non-days. The common practice of valuers right of including a small profit for depreciation reacts on farmers’ own calculations, and the inclusion of interest on all such calculations, which is often though perhaps covering depreciation in further augments costs. The latter course, net outgoings, or should be,

Profits are another matter and represent with rent the interest on the farmer’s capital, and are apt to vanish if charged twice.

Another good example of miscalculation, practised by the farmer just mentioned, was the very generally accepted belief that the longer you kept a pig the less per pound the pork cost, whereas the “law of diminishing returns” tells us that the very opposite is the case. This was proved to the hilt by Danish figures years ago, food alone for the heaviest pigs costing 70 per cent. more than that for young porkers.

Small wonder, then, that even in post-war years many large animals were to be seen in the markets, large fat sheep sometimes making less money than smaller and younger, per head, large bullocks and pigs less per pound. Turnover and maintenance costs never seemed to matter. The butcher smiled and prospered; the land agent sighed; the landlord groaned.

TWO EXAMPLES

Similar differences or anomalies are seen in the profits of farming. The return on capital may be very different on two farms, even in the same class of farming, while even on Essex clay the gross output per £100 capital has been stated by Cambridge University to vary as much as £62 and £86 for north (arable) and south (pasture), respectively.

Let us glance at the returns from two dairy farms: at the post-war figures of 1s. 1d. per gallon—one of 212 acres and 42 cows, rented at £1 per acre, produced nearly £10 worth of milk per acre; the other of 100 acres, with 50 cows and other stock as well, rented at £2 10s., produced, at least in one year, some £20 worth of milk per acre. The capital of each farm was probably not so very different, but the rent is not proportionate to output, or probably to profits—another frequent anomaly.

At the opposite pole the returns from grazing poor grass, so well brought out by Sir Thomas Middleton in the last war, justify to the full the

present reversion to arable. The poorest land at Cockle Park returned 20 lb. of beef (store) (at about 7d.) per acre, while similar boulder clay grass, unimproved, in the North, East and Midlands, sheep-grazed over five years, returned an average of 45 lb.; “the lack of condition of the sheep being very marked,” a 50 per cent. carcass basis was unlikely. Even medium-quality grazing by stores and sheep gave over 11 years (in 1904-1914) an average of 211 lb. throughout the year, which, at 50 per cent. carcass at 6d., gives 105 lb. of lean meat, totalling 52s. 6d. per acre, and a possible profit of 30s.

FAIR RENT PROBLEM

In our two dairy farms it might be supposed that the rent of the smaller one (on the £20 basis per acre) would not be over double that of the larger one per acre, where labour, too, per acre was less owing to the cows being better, five acres against two in the smaller farm being required for each. If we take the old estimate one-third of the produce for rent, we get one-third of about £50 and £40 respectively per cow, £17 and £13, for the larger and the 100-acre farms, or, per acre, about £3 6s. and £6 13s. Neither of these sums is, of course, feasible to-day as rent.

This illustrates what is perhaps the most difficult and sometimes the most anomalous of all farm financial transactions, to fix a fair rent, especially as the smaller farm was originally part of a larger farm then in poorer condition, itself let at about £1 5s. per acre. Theoretically, rent should be so got at, outgoings being duly allowed for, but professional men have never encouraged this lengthy process, and though the skilful come marvellously close to realities, intuitively, others, without perhaps full knowledge of farming, may very easily miscalculate. Those interested may still gain useful information on how a rent is built up from that famous old book, Bayldon’s *Rents and Tillage*.

FOR THE LANDOWNER’S BOOKSHELF

THAT the measurement of trees, and more especially the measuring of standing trees is a branch of forestry of some magnitude, is clearly revealed by a recently published volume on the subject entitled *The Measurement of Trees*, by Reginald Davey, M.Sc. (Forest Press, Nutley, Sussex, 21s.). Mr. Davey’s book is timely and it should be assured of a warm welcome from all those at present engaged on the production and sale of timber, not only because it is so long overdue, but also because it deals with a somewhat complex subject in a simple and straightforward way and presents a vast amount of practical information, much of it made available for the first time, in a very convenient and readily accessible form. The need to pool experience in methods of forest measurement has been felt for some time in order to arrive at a system of measuring standing trees and woods which combines accuracy in estimation and valuation with simplicity in practice, and the present volume, the outcome of three years’ industrious research into British commercial methods, goes far to fill the want. The various factors affecting tree measurement and existing methods of practice are all examined and discussed, and suggestions put forward for improving technique. Not the least useful part of the book is the section comprising the timber tables, giving girth and height measurements in relation to timber point, volume tables and, for the first time in this country, tables giving the average rate of taper in conifers, with preliminary figures for hard woods. A table of prices and bark allowances is also included, setting forth the controlled prices and price classification in use at the present time. The inclusion of such data adds much to the value of a book which is eminently sound and practical in its outlook and information, and will be found a reference guide of invaluable service by every estate owner who takes an interest in his woods, land agents, forestry students and all those engaged in the timber

business, particularly in these days when our home-grown timber supplies are of such vital importance and our estate woodlands are being rapidly depleted to meet the needs of a war economy. G. C. T.

GRASS OR ARABLE

ANY book that will be helpful to the agricultural cause is worth while, and *Agriculture’s Challenge to the Nation* (Heinemann, 8s. 6d. net) should be helpful—with a reservation. The author, Mr. A. Smith, has clearly read widely and industriously. His book indicates a full examination of what has been done or left undone; what science has taught us and how little it has been applied; the needs of the country and how they have not been met; what our land could produce and does not because we stick too closely to tradition.

The reservation is that Mr. Smith attaches too much importance to grass as compared with arable. “Grass,” he says, “is a crop whose productivity as stimulated in modern times can put all competitors in the shade.” But he proceeds to try to prove his argument by comparing average to medium arable crops with exceptionally high yields of dried grass or silage made from short young grass. For example, he compares normal figures in a Ministry of Agriculture Bulletin with selected grass yields in Worcestershire and Cheshire. Again, for his own purposes, to show the high value of lucerne, he compares the starch equivalent of a 20-ton yield of mangolds with a 20-ton yield of lucerne. Comparison with a 30- to 40-ton crop of mangolds might be fairer. Also, lucerne is an arable crop!

All advocacy of this kind will not disprove the general thesis that arable does produce more food (vitamins, protein, carbo-hydrates and minerals) for man and beast than does grass land—valuable as this is when properly used. This scorn of arable is to be deplored, especially at this time, and in particular because man can live far longer in sound health on cereals than on meat, weight for weight.

Insurance in War Time

At a time when danger unprecedented stands on every threshold, there may well be many for whom the ordinary hazards of our pre-war business and domestic lives have lost significance. It is well to remember, however, that these continue and may be sharpened even by present conditions.

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NEW BOOKS

CHARLIE SOONG'S DAUGHTERS

Revised by HOWARD SPRING

MISS EMILY HAHN'S book, *The Soong Sisters* (Hale, 15s.), is about three remarkable women and one remarkable man. It was the man who gave the women their chance.

There is always, to me, a deep fascination in studying the life of the person who starts a distinguished family on its way, whether it be a fictional character like Galsworthy's "Superior Dosset" Forsyte, or the Charlie Soong of this present book, whose three daughters were to make such resounding marriages: one to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen; one to Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek; and one to Dr. Kung, the great Chinese financier.

IN AMERICA

The "g" was tacked on later. The nine-year-old boy who left China to try his luck in America was named Charlie Soon. An uncle had the intention of opening a small grocer's shop in Boston, and Charlie went with him to learn that simple business.

He didn't like it, cleared out, and stowed away in a ship. Thereafter, his good luck was stupendous. The skipper who found him was impressed by the boy's story that he wanted to "improve" himself, and presently Charlie found himself handed over to the care of some good Methodists, who were interested in sending missionaries to China. Charlie appeared to these people literally a godsend. American missionaries were all very well; how much more effective a Chinese who had been trained in America!

So Charlie was sent to school and to college; he imbibed Western ideas; he did a bit of preaching; and finally, when he was twenty-three, Charlie Soon returned to China as Charles Jones Soong, soon forgot all about the preaching, and settled down, married to a Chinese Christian woman, to a successful career in commerce and to a covert revolutionary career as Sun Yat-Sen's secretary and disciple.

I do not know whether the Methodists who had adopted and trained the boy felt cheated; but their bread on the waters returned to them after many days in the immense influence of the Soong sisters in Westernising and Christianising China. Both Dr. Sun and Dr. Kung were Christians when they married Charles Soong's girls; but Chiang Kai-Shek was not. Mrs. Soong, who was a most rampant and proselytising type of Christian, did not want her girl to have anything to do with him. It was after marriage that Chiang adopted the Christian faith.

All three of the girls were educated

first in Christian boarding schools in China and then in college in a southern state of America. They are perhaps the most important link ever formed between East and West.

Miss Hahn's book tells of the deep divisions that life brought to their early unity. Madame Sun had the disappointment of seeing Chiang Kai-Shek turn against her husband's life work; and, Communist as she was, she could not have thought with much complaisance of the estate of her sister who married a wealthy banker. But it would be wrong, Miss Hahn insists, to imagine that political divergencies disturb the deep waters beneath Chinese family life. Surface flurries perhaps; but she refuses to make a melodrama out of the drama of these three unusual lives.

PARSON'S LIFE

Mr. Arthur W. Hopkinson finds himself, at the age of 66, an assistant curate receiving £10 a year, working under the Rector of Wareham, in Dorset. Not many a man, having spent most of his life in authority, would have the humility to take a dependent post of this sort; but Mr. Hopkinson, who felt the control of a parish to be no longer within his physical competence, chose to do this rather than to "retire."

It is a matter of principle with him. In his book, *Pastor's Progress* (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.), he writes: "So long as a priest has breath in his body, he must, according to his ability, exercise his priesthood. *'There is no discharge in that war.'*"

This attitude tells us at once that we have a man of some worthwhileness to consider, and his book does not let down this conception. He tells quite simply the story of a pastor's life, beginning from the present and working backward. He has been in charge of parishes in town and country, and sets forth his difficulties, successes and failures. He coins the good phrase a reversal of John Wesley's: "The parish is my world."

He believes that "it is ten times easier to be a town parson than a country parson"—that is, if the country job is done properly; for "Good

country parsons are few and far between . . . Nor is there likely to be much improvement till it is recognised that the responsibility of working alone, and often in a soporific or even hostile atmosphere, requires the highest qualities of courage, spirituality and perseverance."

He is a man for parsons' wives making the vicarage a humane and lovable place rather than a stuffy round the parish in the capacity of unpaid curates; and he is a believer in the Christian p's test's

THE SOONG SISTERS
By Emily Hahn

(Hale, 15s.)

PASTOR'S PROGRESS
By Arthur W.
Hopkinson

(Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.)

THE
AMERICAN NATION
By John Gloag

(Cassell, 7s. 6d.)

THE HOUR OF
THE ANGEL
By Jane Oliver

(Collins, 8s. 6d.)

mission to heal body and mind as well as soul. At the present time, for example: "I can give three mornings a week, over a period of some months, to the effort to free a man from the horrors of neurosis. . . . There are also a large number whom I am treating without their knowing it; by example, by prayer, by correspondence, by friend, with understanding and encouragement. The most useful example one can offer is imperceptible."

It is true; and it is an example, than goodness, that can be offered as effectively by Stoic or heathen as by such humane Christian minds as this author's.

HISTORY OF AMERICA

Mr. John Gloag's *The American Nation* (Cassell, 7s. 6d.) is a useful short history of the United States. There are numerous maps and graphs to make things clear. The author begins with the general story; then he gives us a brief account of each state; he has chapters on how the political machine works, on education and other matters; and he gives lists of the presidents and of the ministers and ambassadors whom the States have sent to Great Britain.

It is all very well done; and if there is a fault to be found with the book it is that, in his anxiety to do America justice, the author now and then overstates his case. Take three examples. We are told that Dickens in America was "tactlessly outspoken." I for one am not so sure. English authors were being robbed right and left by literary "pirates," and if Dickens felt wrathful, there was every reason why he should be so.

Of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Mr. Gloag

says: "It may well claim to be the greatest work of fiction published in the nineteenth century." This was the century of Dickens and Thackeray, of *Wuthering Heights*, of the novels of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, of Flaubert and Stendhal. It was, in short, the century when the novel touched its greatest heights; and I should imagine that few impartial students of the matter would fail to dismiss Mr. Gloag's statement as nonsense.

Jane Oliver's novel, *The Hour of the Angel* (Collins, 8s. 6d.), is concerned with the survival of personality after death, and with the ability of those who are spoken of as dead to communicate with and influence the lives of those they have loved.

Robert, a young airman, is killed in an accident halfway through the book, and thereafter we have the story of his wife Moira and of her growing belief that he is as much with her as ever, and that he is able to affect her daily common duties. For example, when she is taking a motor test Robert's hand is on hers and she is thus permitted to do what otherwise would have been beyond her.

FAITH BEAUTIFUL

Miss Oliver has clearly written in great faith, and she has written beautifully, too. The relationships of Robert, Moira and Robert's family are subtly conveyed, and a real feeling for the love between these two young people irradiates the book. Excellent also is the account of the deep emotional attachment between the "boys" at the flying station.

For the rest, one would need to share the author's faith, or illumination, in order to get the best out of the book, and this will necessarily be a matter of individual approach. But,

however you look at it, Miss Oliver has written a book of sincerity and beauty.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN AUTHOR

MR. HOWARD SPRING declares that he has "reached a condition pretty near anaesthesia where reviews are concerned," so I hope he will not mind my saying that I have greatly enjoyed his book *In the Meantime* (Constable, 12s. 6d.). To say that is far easier than to describe it; for his gift of flitting is positively gymnastic.

Thus he begins with an engaging Irish terrier that leads him to eucalyptus trees in his Cornish garden. The trees in their turn suggest a discourse on complacent optimism. Everybody said there has been no frost in Cornwall for 30 years, and behold! three frosty winters running destroyed the eucalyptus trees. And so he goes, leaping on from pictures and pottery to dressing the wells at Tissington, or Mr. Churchill on board the *Prince of Wales*, periodically indulging in serious musings on the war and the world in general. His book is as a miscellaneous collection of stones, some bright and some sombre, hung on a slender chain which is his own career. He thinks that he has progressed through life, like Koko, "by a set of curious chances." If he had not caught an unnecessarily early train to Darwen to report a speech of Lord Beaverbrook's, he would not have observed a fair-ground, which gave him a notion how to write of the occasion and so brought him to Fleet Street. If his express train from the West had not stopped for five minutes at Keinton Mandeville, the underlying idea of his most successful novel, *My Son, My Son*, would never have come into his head. He makes out a good case, and yet we may think that whatever trains he

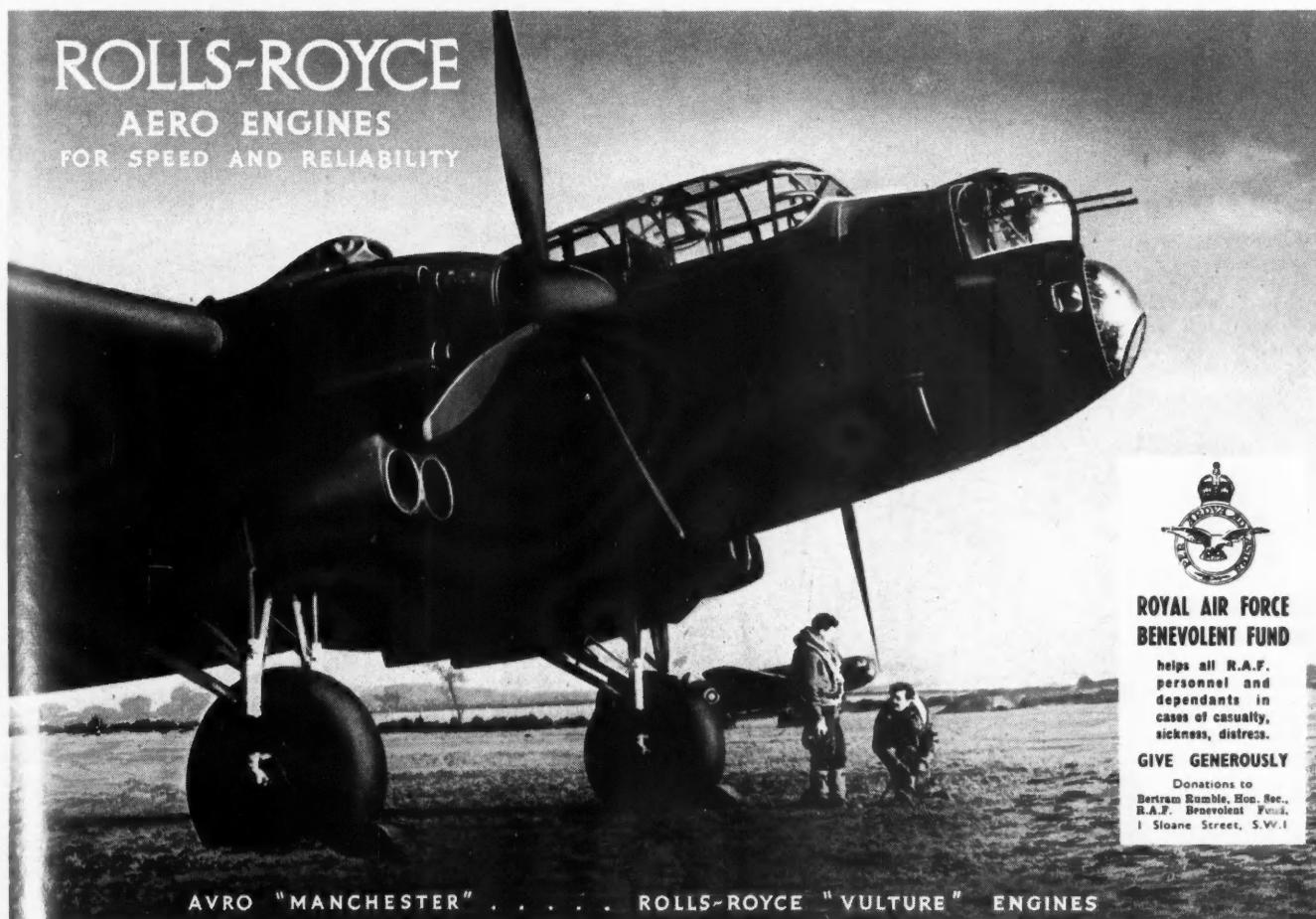
caught or missed, he must sooner or later have reached his haven.

The reader having paid his money may take his choice, but for my part I have no doubt; it is the pictures of journalism that I like best. Newspapers are always exciting, whether for those at their busy heart, or for one who like myself works for them but is ever an outsider, or for the layman who has a purely external and romantic vision and sees in every office boy a courier bearing momentous tidings. We see the author, after serving the *South Wales Daily News* as a juvenile factotum, setting out for his first reporting job on the *Bradford Observer*, with that terror of the North which every southerner feels on the journey. At Bradford he reads prodigiously, plays golf at Baildon, walks the Brontë country, talks half through the night and "learns to blunt his moral feelings" by the aid of tobacco. From Bradford he goes to the Manchester he still deeply loves and to the *Manchester Guardian*. Here he gives some admirable sketches of his colleagues; of Haslam Mills and George Leach, the two chief reporters and both men of character; of Samuel Langford, the musical critic, without whom no Manchester concert could begin, though he was always late; of C. P. Scott, now a legendary figure.

C. P. SCOTT

This last is the more interesting, because Mr. Spring admired the editor but frankly disliked the man. He makes him strangely inhuman; sparing of kicks but unconscious of the supreme value of half-pence; lacking something of warmth which nothing can replace. There is indeed one story about a guinea and a half so agonising that my pen refuses to transcribe it. Mr. Spring may have seen the wrong side of a great man, but whether or no, this vignette is one of the best things in a—to me—fascinating book. B. D.

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Photographs DENES

DRESSES, designed by Norman Hartnell, mass-produced by Berkertex, are the latest development in the fashion industry. These Utility dresses are in rayon, in rayon and wool mixtures, in pure wool. Summer designs are in the shops now, at the staggeringly small prices of the Government's price-control scheme; the autumn and winter ranges are still in the factory stage. The whole collection was shown in London recently, follows the latest limitations of design, and shows effectively what charming, simple clothes can be made under the new regulations. Dresses are cut on tailored lines with soft detail at the top, and are made in the lovely glowing shades always associated with Mr. Hartnell—dahlia red, flame, pansy purples, emerald green, deep hyacinth blues. Woollen frocks are slim as pencils, both short and long sleeved, feature two or more colours or materials used in one design. Purple and white and nigger and white herring-bone Scotch tweeds are allied to plain purple and brown, the plain being used on the yokes and sleeves. A summer washing frock has a pencil skirt in mahogany brown Moygashel rayon linen and a tailored white tunic in the same canvas weave, buttoning down the front, collarless with pointed revers. It was exceedingly smart; so was a coat-frock in this same rich red-brown colour worn with chalk-white sombrero and gloves. Two numbers to note for next winter are "Blackout," a black and white herring-bone Scotch tweed with a black top and sleeves cut all in one that look like a bolero, and "Rough Stuff," a plain nigger brown wool with a narrow leather belt, tomato coloured, a shirt top and a full, pouched back.

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For Prints

Erik's fine straw with highish flowerpot crown and a becoming brim that dips over the face with a fine black veil falling on to the shoulders.

Scientific planning of machinery and processing has made these dresses possible at the price. They come in American sizes, have the double stitching on seams that is a feature of all Berkertex dresses.

Coats, suits, as well as dresses, designed by the London Dress Designers' Group for the Board of Trade, will be on the market in the late summer and early autumn, made from Utility fabrics designed especially by the members of the Group, of which Captain Edward Molyneux is the chairman. These clothes will go into mass production and will be on sale all over the country. The Mayfair designers will continue as before to make small individual collections of model clothes, built on their customers, in their own salons, at the same time as they are working with the big mass producers.

ONE of the knottiest clothes problems is that of stockings. There are precious few pure silk left, and many of the war-time stockings, alas! are not at all durable, as women who have expended coupons have found to their cost. The best buying proposition are undoubtedly the lisle ribbed like a seaman's. There is a supply on the June quota at Marshall and Snelgrove's, costing 9s. 11d. They look very smart in the country. For town there are a very limited number of 51-gauge lisle, the last of their kind, as the making of such a fine stocking is now forbidden. These come in lovely colours, and my advice is: Buy while you can. They cost 6s. 11d. a pair, and are made and shaped on the machines used for fine silk stockings before the war. Ankle socks in ribbed bouclé lisle cost 6s. 11d., come in soft pastel shades, have a band of lastex woven in at the top, so that they grip well. Three-quarter-length ribbed rayon socks are popular, have a similar band of lastex woven in at the top, cost 7s. 11d. a pair. Woollen socks are brightly coloured. Some grip with a band of elastic; others have a turn-down cuff. Top-grade Utility stockings are coming on the market in two weights of rayon and two weights of cotton. Marshall and Snelgrove will stock them when they are ready, have now an everyday Utility rayon at 2s. 6d., a good hard-wearing stocking.

I. and R. Morley are showing attractive ribbed socks with a double turn-over in heavy mercerised cotton which will stand a lot of hard wear. These are made in the colours adopted by the British Colour Council, so that they can be matched up anywhere with other accessories. For tweeds, Morley have fluffy wools with checkerboard tops. Marl socks are made in all the tweed colours, narrow ribs for the tops and broad ribs for the feet. These Morley socks can be obtained all over the country. They look well with cotton frocks and tanned legs.

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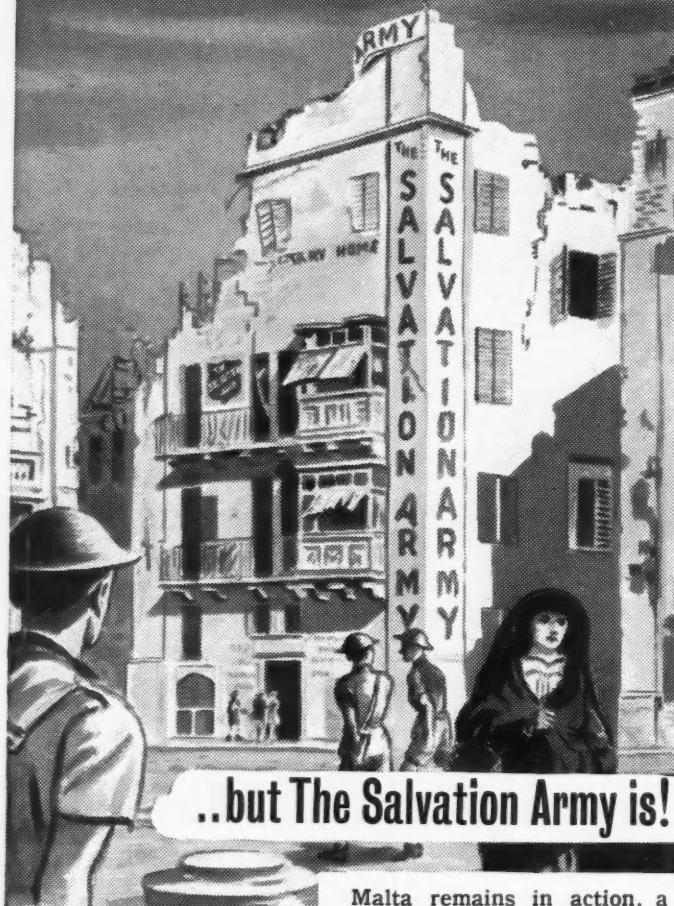
J N D E R R O Y A L P A T R O N A G E

“COUNTRY LIFE” CROSSWORD

No. 645

SOLUTION to No. 644

The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of May 29, will be announced next week.



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The winner of Crossword No. 643 is

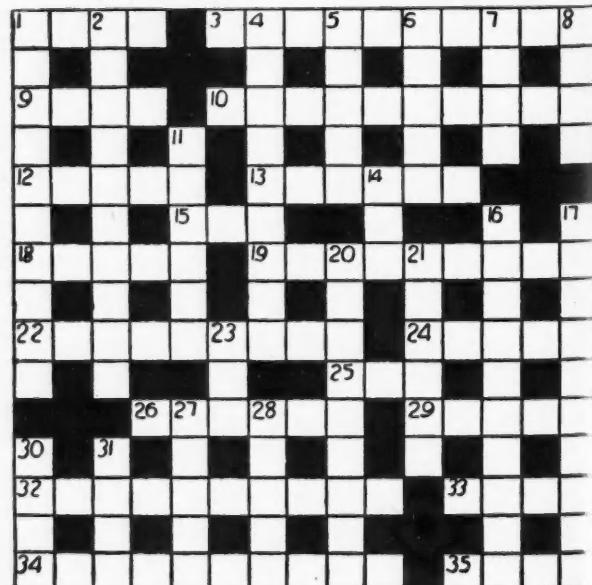
Mrs. Sarah Telford,

7, Aberconway Road, Prestatyn, North Wales.

ACROSS

- 1 and 3. Tongues will wag about the marvel for less than a week and a half! (three words, 4, 4, 6)
9. Con the covering to get satisfaction (4)
10. One from the fold (two words, 5, 5)
12. Alter alter (5)
13. Ascribe (6)
15. James Howell said that life at best was but this (3)
18. Yorkshire city in which a famous American resides? (5)
19. Describes the arboreal avenue (two words, 4, 5)
22. Though domesticated, the life they lead is not a model one (three words, 3, 3, 3)
24. Sheepish piece of banister (5)
25. No ghost, but for all that it must be laid (3)
26. Guardian (6)
29. Bore a need (5)
32. "Ted's in tree!" (anagr.) (10)
33. Part of bird, building, bomber (4)
34. Her business is gusset and band and seam (10)
35. Not so much of it, please! (4)
1. You were born there, though not necessarily in South Africa (two words, 5, 5)
2. See 19 ordinal (10)
4. Sullied (9)
5. Don't put it on the letter with your foot (5)
6. Jumbled notes (5)
7. May qualify the ocean (4)
8. Mature (4)
11. Got up, and is near (6)
14. A custom east of the States? (3)
16. Through which was borne a banner with a strange device? (three words, 4, 3, 3)
17. Bad lot indeed! We hope 25 is not of their company! (two words, 6, 4)
20. "Green seas" (anagr.) (9)
21. More prolix (6)
23. Wither (3)
27. The snare in wages? (5)
28. Puzzle: find the exhibitionist (5)
30. "O fie Miss, you must not — and tell!" —Congreve (4)
31. Extremely small species of male cat? (4)

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Surprise Potatoes

6 large potatoes; 6 ozs. cold cooked meat
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Lemco; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. fat; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour
 4 tablespoons water

Scrub the potatoes and bake in their jackets. Melt the fat, mix it with the flour, water, Lemco and seasoning. Boil up, add the meat and re-heat. Partially cut off one end of each potato, scoop out a portion of the inside, sprinkle in a little salt, and fill with meat mixture. Replace some of the potato, close the end and serve piled in a dish cut side downwards.

Savoury Dumplings

6 ozs. flour; $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Lemco; $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. suet, grated; $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mixed herbs; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint water; Salt, pepper

Dissolve the Lemco in the water. Mix all the dry ingredients and moisten with Lemco stock. Form into small balls and boil $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in water flavoured with Lemco if liked.

NOTE:—These dumplings may be used with roast meat, in stew or soups.

Savoury Roly-Poly

$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. suet pastry; Piece of onion, leek or 3 spring onions; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. fat; $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Lemco
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fresh minced meat; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. raw potatoes
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. flour; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint water; Salt and pepper

Roll out the pastry in a strip. Dice the potatoes and chop the onion. Mix the meat and vegetables together, season and spread over the pastry. Roll up, seal the edges, tie in a cloth and boil $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Serve with brown gravy as follows—Heat the fat in a small pan, stir in the flour, and brown it. Add the Lemco and a teaspoon of Worcester Sauce or Mushroom Ketchup, and the water. Stir until boiling.



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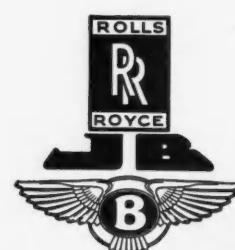
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